



## **Jerry of the Islands: A True Dog Story**

*Jack London*

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# **Jerry of the Islands: A True Dog Story**

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## **Jerry of the Islands: A True Dog Story** Jack London

Jack London made a specialty of books about marvelous dogs. *Jerry of the Islands* tells the story of an Irish Terrier, a dog from the Southern seas, rather than the cold North. Jerry's life is colored by his experiences in the rough -- and sadly, racist -- land of Melanesia. First published in 1915, "Jerry of the Islands" tells the story of Jerry's narrow world, in which the dog has been born and raised to carry out the racist aims of his master, and his travels after that time...

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## **Jerry of the Islands: A True Dog Story Details**

Date : Published February 1st 2002 by Fredonia Books (NL) (first published 1917)

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Author : Jack London

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## **From Reader Review Jerry of the Islands: A True Dog Story for online ebook**

### **Tabitha Ormiston-Smith says**

This is a charming story about a dog, with all the detail and gritty reality we expect from Mr London. Normally Mr London's offerings would get more than three stars from me, however I found this book badly marred by the constant use of expressions which we no longer use in polite society, and which must nowadays be offensive to any thinking person. One realises that language as it was spoken, and the thoughts which it necessarily informed, were very different a hundred years ago, yet it was impossible to read parts of this book without distaste. Those reading this book need to brace themselves in advance to encounter a degree of racism that we seldom encounter today outside the hallowed corridors of the Liberal Party.

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### **Michael Bafford says**

This is unfortunately racist. The story is otherwise pretty good and following Jerry through a series of misadventures which should have killed him keeps the reader interested.

But there is entirely too much use of the "n" word and entirely too much categorizing Melanesians as a group without individuality. "Melanesians, unlike cattle, are as prone to stampede to attack as to retreat." Jerry is of course conditioned: "The niggers - well had not he seen them always compelled to remain in their lesser place? Had he not seen them, on occasion, triced up to the palm-trees of the Meringe compound and their backs lashed to ribbons by the white-gods? Small wonder that a high-born Irish terrier, in the arms of love of the white-god should look at niggers through white-god's eyes, and act toward niggers in the way that earned the white-god's reward of praise".

Had London showed sympathy with the downtrodden, as would be expected of a man who was a confirmed socialist and believed in class struggle; who had been nursed by a black-woman, his foster mother, who lent him money as an adult to further his career. But he does not. Apparently he permits himself to see the world only as Jerry saw it and accept the values Jerry held.

This is sad as the world of the Solomon islands was then - and may well still be - a fascinating place. At the time of writing it was apparently inhabited by numerous city-states constantly at war with one another. This sounds just like ancient Greece! The natives here though had no Marathon to bring them together and were cajoled, or ordered by their King or family, to subject themselves to periods of at least three years as indentured servants on plantations. At the end of this time they were ferried back to their home village and paid. Those who survived, that is. This is the story of Jerry's voyage on such a ship.

Not recommended.

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### **Joy says**

First, I have to say that Jack London really knows how to tell a story. The action, adventure, and absolutely captivating characters never fail to satisfy. My issues with this little-known posthumously published book are the Pidgin English dialect that is difficult to follow and the flagrant racism throughout. Yes, it was common in the time period, and yes, London is well-known for his application of Darwinist theories to the issues of race. This book is an excellent example of these, and at the same time becomes difficult to read and difficult to use in mainstream school or library settings.

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### **Maria Savina says**

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### **Sergey Barsamyan says**

A fascinating, unfaiirly unprized "dog storie" by the Master of wolf/dog stories - Jack London. This book, along with its twin - "Michael, brother of Jerry", will be perfect read for everyone who loved the stories about White Fang and Buck.

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### **William Dale says**

My Sunday assignment, finish my first edition Jack London novel.

Not his best, but intriguing, and his insight into the presumed workings of the minds of dogs seems spot on.

The way racism infects the world, including through our training of pets, is projected convincingly as well.

Several reviews mistake London's accurate portrayal of historical racism as his own views. This is a mistake.

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### **Muzaffer Bayraktar says**

Kimseñin köpekleri bu kadar iyi anlayabilece?ini ve üzerine muhte?em bir roman yazabilece?ini  
dü?ünmemi?tim. London'?n insanlar ve ?rklar üzerine dü?ünceleri günümüz dünyas?nda oldukça rahats?z  
edici olabilir. Fakat bu söylenene göre gerçek bir hikaye ve daha da önemlisi bir köpek hakk?nda

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### **Daniel Rivas says**

El perro racista correteando por las islas Salomón. Tiene su interés a ratos, pero huele demasiado a "La llamada de la selva".

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### **Arsenovic Nikola says**

Jedna vrhunska knjiga

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### **Afyhrlund says**

I loved this story for the adventure itself and the way that Jack London can make you care about what's going on in a dog's mind. Plus there's a happy ending. Caution: There is no holding back when it comes to the use of racial slurs.

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### **JoAnn Augustine says**

I tried. Getting past the use of the n-word was hard, though I am a Jack London fan and know that the word was a part of history, albeit one of the ugly parts. I made it half-way before the dialogue in beche-mer began. That is the language used between white and native populations in the South Seas. While it is a pidgin English, it is barely understandable. When it went on for pages at a time, I was at my maximum frustration. Nobody but myself cares if I read this book! So I stopped.

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### **Aymara Belmonte says**

#### **"Jerry de las Islas": La aventura de un perro racista en busca de su "dios blanco"**

A pesar de estar bien escrito, el racismo del libro no me permitía sumergirme en el mismo. Podría haber sido una historia muy tierna e interesante si no mencionaran a cada rato la búsqueda de un amo blanco considerado como un "dios blanco" o de la "maldad de los negros" que, aunque considere el contexto histórico, podría tranquilamente no haber sido incluido.

Recuerdo que mis padres, sin saber de qué trataba ni haberlo leído previamente, me regalaron este libro cuando era niña pero admito que nunca lo había leído hasta este momento (en el cual, naturalmente, tengo un pensamiento más crítico que el que poseía a los diez años), y, a decir verdad me alegro de no haberlo hecho.

Me frustra mucho penar en el potencial desperdiciado que esta novela/historia posee, así que no lo haré y me alejaré de la misma lo más pronto posible.

Esta no es una lectura recomendable para un público sensible (¡y mucho menos para niños!), pero si no sos una persona fácil de ofender o simplemente no te molesta o incomoda lo que mencioné acá, ¡adelante, sos libre de leer "Jerry de las Islas"!

—*Si alguien quiere más detalles, con gusto los daré en comentarios pero quiero que esto sea más una*

*advertencia antes de leer el libro que una reseña.*

*—Es posible que cambie mi puntuación de este libro en el futuro puesto que acabo de terminar de leerlo y un libro toma un largo tiempo en "crecer en vos" si es que consigue hacerlo.*

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### **LibraryCin says**

This book follows Jerry, a puppy, as he sets out on the sea with a sailor. From there he ends up on land with a group of people. And he makes his way further from there. Much of the story is from Jerry's point of view.

It was ok. I had trouble following much of the dialogue. I (no surprise to me) found myself much more interested in the parts that were from Jerry's point of view, rather than the parts that strayed from that and focused on the people in the story.

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### **Heather says**

Adventures of a racist dog. Even allowing for Prevailing Attitudes of the Times, it's hard to get through. Jack London is no Mark Twain.

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### **Toby Michaels says**

I like Jack London a lot, "The Sea Wolf" and "White Fang" are two of my favorite books ever, and I know from reading his short stories that he uses the word n\*\*\*er, but the way it's so frequently used in this one and the tone it's used in, I don't know, I just couldn't tolerate it, and I'm a pretty thick-skinned person.

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