

# WHITE FANG

Retold by Pauline Francis



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# Introduction

Jack London was born in 1876, in the American State of Pennsylvania. At the age of fifteen, he left home to travel around North America, living the life of a tramp. Then he decided to study at the University of California.

Jack left university because he was caught up in the excitement of the gold rush in the 1890s. Gold had been discovered in the River Klondike, in the Yukon Territory of Northwest Canada. Thirty thousand people travelled to this area (London called it the 'Northland'), hoping to make their fortunes. Dawson was the town that grew up around the gold hunters and it is still the main town of this region.

Unfortunately, Jack London came back from the Klondike with no gold at all. But it was there that he had an idea for a story called *The Call of the Wild*. It was published in 1903 and became a huge bestseller. *White Fang* was published in 1906 and tells the story of White Fang's attempts to survive as part-dog and part-wolf, in the harsh Northland.

By 1913, Jack London was one of the most highly paid and widely read writers in the world. But sadly he drank too much and wasted his money. In 1916, when he was forty years old, Jack London killed himself.