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The Mad King



Synopsis

Edgar Rice Burroughs (September 1, 1875 – March 19, 1950) was an American writer best known for his creations of the jungle hero Tarzan and the heroic Mars adventurer John Carter, although he produced works in many genres. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: Babblebooks (September 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1601122543

ISBN-13: 978-1601122544

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 4.9 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

Edgar Rice Burroughs excelled in authoring fantastic flights of fancy, and, while THE MAD KING isn't considered a classic in the same vein as his Tarzan and Barsoom series, it's still very much crafted in the patented pulp-adventure Burroughs style and, as such, deserves a read. Honestly, I can't recall a boring book that this man has written; ERB's prolific imagination still impresses (although, with this one, he does a bit of lifting from other authors). THE MAD KING's plot: Barney Custer of Beatrice, Nebraska is vacationing in Lutha, his mother's beloved European homeland, when he rescues a beautiful woman on a runaway horse. The woman he saves is Emma von der Tann, a princess who is betrothed to Leopold the "mad king." For the past decade, Leopold had been kept in the custody of his scheming uncle and currently regent of Lutha, Peter of Blentz. Except that the mad king had just escaped. Although wanted posters throughout Lutha proclaim Leopold's madness, this malady was an invention of the ambitious regent's, who himself seeks to ascend the throne. A similarity in appearance and playful words by Custer lead Princess Emma to believe that he, in fact, is Leopold of Lutha. Barney spends most of the book's first part denying that he is the king, but to little avail. This case of mistaken identity propels him to many harrowing adventures in Lutha as he chooses to fight to save a princess and regain the throne for the rightful

monarch. While ERB's plot borrows heavily from the pages of THE PRISONER OF ZENDA and even a bit from THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER, he makes the premise his own with the infusion of his inimitable sense of romance and high spirited adventure.

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