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Conan: The Barbarian Complete Collection



Synopsis

New complete edition (fixed missing chapters problem!!) Conan the Barbarian (also known as Conan the Cimmerian) is a fictional sword and sorcery hero who originated in pulp fiction magazines and has since been adapted to books, comics, several films (including Conan the Barbarian and Conan the Destroyer), television programs (cartoon and live-action), video games, role-playing games and other media. Conan is a Cimmerian. From Robert E. Howard's writings (The Hyborian Age among others) it is known that the Cimmerians were based on the Celts or Gaels. He was born on a battlefield and is the son of a village blacksmith. Conan matured quickly as a youth and, by age fifteen, he was already a respected warrior who had participated in the destruction of the Aquilonian outpost of Venarium. After its demise, he was struck by wanderlust and began the adventures chronicled by Howard, encountering skulking monsters, evil wizards, tavern wenches, and beautiful princesses. He roamed throughout the Hyborian Age as a thief, outlaw, mercenary, and pirate. As he grew older, he began commanding larger units of men and escalating his ambitions. In his forties, he seized the crown of the tyrannical king of Aquilonia, the most powerful kingdom of the Hyborian Age, having strangled the previous ruler on the steps of the throne. Conan's adventures often result in him performing heroic feats, though his motivation for doing so is largely to protect his own survival or for personal gain. Here you will find all of Robert E. Howard's stories about Conan the Barbarian, published in *Weird Tales* magazine between 1933-1936 and features an interactive table of contents. Included are the stories: Cimmeria "A Poem" The Phoenix on the Sword The Scarlet Citadel The Tower of the Elephant The Slithering Shadow/ Xuthal of the Dusk The Pool of the Black One Rogues in the House Gods of the North/ The Frost Giant's Daughter/ The Frost King's Daughter Shadows in the Moonlight Queen of the Black Coast The Devil in Iron The People of the Black Circle A Witch Shall Be Born Jewels of Gwahlur Beyond the Black River Red Nails The Hour of the Dragon Also you get: The Hyborian Age - Howard's essay on the world of Conan + Bonus: Robert E. Howard's Biography and more!

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Customer Reviews

I love the Conan stories, but I guess you get what you pay for? I wish I had read the other one-star reviews instead of just seeing 4+ stars overall and clicking "buy." My complaint is that some of the stories are missing random chapters for whatever reason. The first story, "The Phoenix on the Sword," contains 3 chapters...out of 5 that were written. So you get to the end of chapter 3 with nothing resolved, and suddenly you're on a new story. Why would an editor approve this? The next story, "The Scarlet Citadel," is similarly missing Chapter 2 (out of 5 total). I haven't yet looked to see if other stories are missing chapters, but be forewarned that if you purchase this version, you'll have to either look online or else buy *another* version if you want to actually read some of these tales in their entirety.

Conan the Barbarian takes place in a dark, primal fantasy setting that is a genre-defining work. It is hard to believe this was written in the early 1900s as it is reminiscent of some of the more modern works of fantasy. There is also definitely a Lovecraftian vibe when it comes to ancient/eldritch civilizations and creatures from the primordial past who are hidden away in long-forgotten ruins. Notably, Howard and Lovecraft corresponded and the former was definitely influenced by the latter. Another striking observation is the stark contrast between the camp of the movies (not that I didn't like them) and the serious, often bleak tone of these stories. If a movie were made that was true to the books, it would have a feel similar to that of Sin City, with its bleak, hopeless atmosphere and the total absence of a transcendent moral rectifier such as God. In an amoral world filled with sinister powers and where might makes right, Conan's strength, agility and intelligence are his only claims to greatness. His extreme intelligence in the books is definitely not carried over in the films,

and in many stories he is portrayed to be multilingual and almost a polymath in terms of his adaptability. Overall, this is great fantasy reading and the stories are short enough to provide interesting variety but long enough to be satisfying.

It's Conan. He defeats all enemies. When he should be dead, he's not! If his enemy is stronger than him, he's smarter than the enemy and tricks him. If the enemy is smarter than Conan, Conan simply smashes him, with his superior strength. These stories are adventures, written solely for vicarious pleasure, Every woman wants him; every man wants to be him. I think we really don't have enough of this kind of writing anymore. I think that's why these adaptations of graphic novels are doing so well--they're written for the thrill of it, for the fun of it. And that's what these stories are--fun..

Finally, in one place for a low price, all of Robert E. Howard's Conan stories in a single volume. If you're like me, these are tales that you'll read again and again, so the book is an incredible value. Conan, the hulking, moody Cimmerian anti-hero, was of course Howard's signature creation and though many have tried, no one has successfully copied him since. Conan is one of a kind. I'd have the old Ace versions of the Conan series, but to me they are spoiled by the inclusions of pastiches. Some, including Robert Jordan, have done passable versions, but none have ever come close to matching Howard's original. I would love to see similar economical collections of some of Howard's other heroes, like Solomon Kane and King Kull.

Great chronological survey of the Original Conan stories by Robert E. Howard. Loved revisiting these again all in one volume. Howard's dark, gritty style is what gave Conan life. Others have tried to copy it (a good recent rendition is the character called 'the bloody nine' in the book entitled 'the first law' by Abercrombie.) but you can't beat Howard's style of writing that draws you in with hidden steamy jungles, the unforgiving frozen tundra, the harsh salt spray of the sea, or the warm passionate embrace of a willing wench. Great read!

Here's Conan the Barbarian, as conceived by Bob Howard (before the character was watered down by divers hands), as he should have been portrayed in film, but wasn't. All the original novels are here, undiluted by time and our declining social mores. It's an opportunity for longtime fans to relive the glory days of the pulps and a chance for younger readers to sample a headier brew than our present insipid culture will ever offer. Great fun!

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