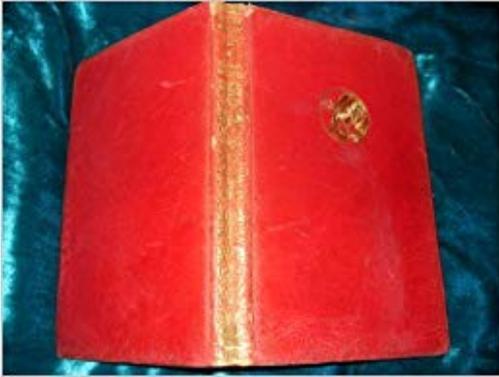


Stalky and Co. *by* Rudyard Kipling



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Reviews of the *Stalky and Co.* *by* Rudyard Kipling

Justie

I first read Stalky and Co many years ago when I was at Boarding School and it became one of my favorite books. When I discovered recently there was a Complete Stalky and Co. with five more stories I purchased it immediately. It is still one of my favorite books and I thoroughly enjoyed the five new tales. I just wish so much that Rudyard Kipling was still alive so I could ask him, well, what happened next?

Pedar

This might be the best British boarding school tale done from Victorian times. Unlike Tom Brown's School Days, which is an equally good piece of fiction, but with idealized characters, the boys in this fiction behave much like modern boys would act in similar circumstances. They are at once both delightfully mischievous and energetic, lacking in the same teenage restraints, and morally indignant to perceived injustice. Like modern teens, both cunning and impulsive at the same time, these boys seem very real. The multiple story lines and well drawn characters remind you of a Dickens novel, and add interest and entertainment value to the tale. The only drawback, and it was annoying but not distracting, was the improper punctuation and Latin phrasing in places, but that was due to the transcription to kindle use, and not to Kipling himself. I heartily recommend this novella. It is simply literary art at its best.

Wizer

It bothers me just a wee bit that amazon will charge its highest prices for ebooks that are not the best versions on its own site. Please consider the illustrated Stalky for 0.99, not this. The text has only a passing acquaintance with punctuation and no idea at all of Latin phrasing. This makes understanding the authentic schoolboy slang of the time impossible.

Dyni

When I was young I had a serious Kipling period, but not so serious that I bought all his stuff. To get all the Stalky stories you had to buy various books that I did not want to buy and keep. Or so I thought. In The Complete Stalky you get all the stories in one volume.

The present day young probably won't like the book much for it describes something that is mostly history, but I am old enough to have seen a very authoritarian school system and when I read the book the first time I recognised all the teachers.

Boraston

I didn't think I'd like this one, it's one of the more "mundane" Kipling books, but I was weirdly into it. Probably my second favorite after Kim.

Nnulam

The Kindle version can be hard to read, given the inconsistent punctuation - you have to figure out where the quotation marks should be, most of the time. Then again, you get what you pay for.

Ahieones

I just finished reading Dixon's "On the Psychology of Military Incompetence" before I decided to read "Stalky & Co." S&C was one of my mother's favorites, that somehow I had never read. It was odd reading it in the shadow of Dixon's work, as he comments at length on the effect that the English Public Schools had on the British officer corps. It was enjoyable, a good tale of 3 teen's life and experiences while away from their families living at a boarding school typical of late 19th century England. The schoolmaster and staff are in loco parentis, and to be dealt with as best that teens can deal with those in power over them. The lessons are not all in the classroom, and eventually do lead into the real world, in the service of the Empire. As in the Harry Potter series, there is bullying, by early 21st century standards, or in its own time, justice as administered by the boys. One might consider "Lord of the Flies", but there there was no adult influence, as there is in Stalky & Co. The English Public School is typically a closed society, and teachers cannot be everywhere. Thus the teenagers learned to govern themselves. This is how the English upper class was made. A good book, and I waited far too late in life to read it. Admirable and interesting characters in a situation that was far from ideal, people who are in many ways worth emulating.

This is an abysmal recording of Stalky and Co. Read by some vapid, arch young woman who doesn't get sarcasm or irony. In that marvelous scene early on in which M'Turk sees the keeper poaching a vixen in cubbing season, goes all feudal and Irish, and confronts the landowner, the silly besom reads it as if it's Eeyore confronting Piglet. That scene was funny to me when I was 7 and I didn't even understand most of it. And she's American. I am actually going to trash the tape to the publisher. Regardless of non PC stuff, I love Kipling, especially Stalky, Kim, and Puck. Every summer holidays since I was quite young, I began ceremoniously by reading Stalky, Kim, and The Sword in the Stone. A great story, ruined by a reader who does not understand it. Soporific.

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