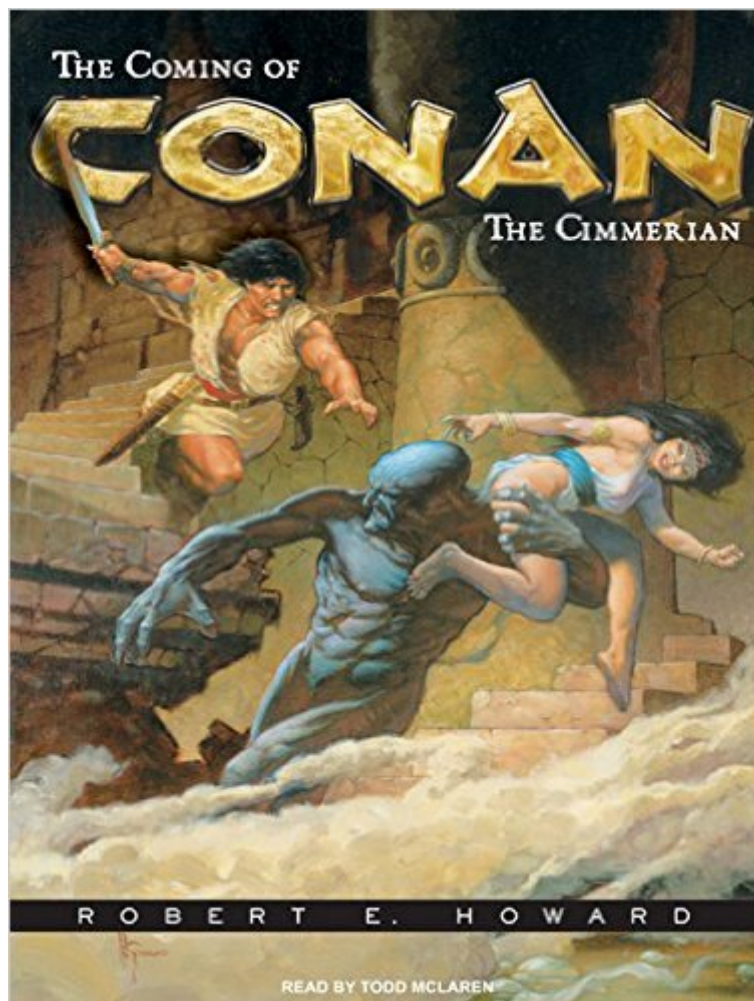


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The Coming Of Conan The Cimmerian: The Original Adventures Of The Greatest Sword And Sorcery Hero Of All Time! (Conan Of Cimmeria)



Synopsis

"Between the years when the oceans drank Atlantis and the gleaming cities...there was an Age undreamed of, when shining kingdoms lay spread across the world like blue mantles beneath the stars.... Hither came Conan, the Cimmerian, black-haired, sullen-eyed, sword in hand...to tread the jeweled thrones of the Earth under his sandalled feet." In a meteoric career that spanned a mere twelve years before his tragic suicide, Robert E. Howard single-handedly invented the genre that came to be called sword and sorcery. Collected in this volume are Howard's first thirteen Conan stories in their original versions and in the order Howard wrote them. Included are classics of dark fantasy like "The Tower of the Elephant" and swashbuckling adventure like "Queen of the Black Coast." Here are timeless tales featuring Conan the raw and dangerous youth, Conan the daring thief, Conan the swashbuckling pirate, and Conan the commander of armies. Here, too, is an unparalleled glimpse into the mind of a genius whose bold storytelling style has been imitated by many yet equaled by none. The tales contained in The Coming of Conan the Cimmerian are "The Phoenix on the Sword," "The Frost-Giant's Daughter," "The God in the Bowl," "The Tower of the Elephant," "The Scarlet Citadel," "Queen of the Black Coast," "Black Colossus," "Iron Shadows in the Moon," "Xuthal of the Dusk," "The Pool of the Black One," "Rogues in the House," "The Vale of Lost Women," and "The Devil in Iron."

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Customer Reviews

If you're a fan of fantasy author Robert E. Howard, who wrote for the pulps in the 1920s and 30s,

rejoice! His stories of the great barbarian adventurer Conan are coming back in print, without unnecessary editing. These are the original texts. If you enjoy fantasy, but have never read either Howard or Conan -- BUY THIS NOW. It is a must for lovers of fantasy. Banish any notions you have of Conan in other media: movies, comics, books by other authors. Howard's Conan is a stunning, unique creation. At turns bloody thrilling, filled with passionate rushes of action, at other times brooding and beautiful, sweeping you off to strange vistas. Howard was a one of a kind author, an American great, and with Conan he was at his best. This first volume covers the first third of Howard's Conan stories, presented in the order they were written. The included stories are (in order): 1. The Phoenix on the Sword 2. The Frost-Giant's Daughter 3. The God in the Bowl 4. The Tower of the Elephant 5. The Scarlet Citadel 6. Queen of the Black Coast 7. Black Colossus 8. Iron Shadows in the Moon (aka Shadows in the Moonlight) 9. Xuthal of the Dusk (aka The Slithering Shadow) 10. The Pool of the Black One 11. The Vale of Lost Women 12. The Devil in Iron 13. The Phoenix on the Sword (first submitted draft) Plus a number of fragments and outlines, and Howard's guide to Conan's world: "The Hyborian Age." All the stories are enjoyable, although a few are minor entries in the Conan canon. The superior works are "The Tower of the Elephant," "The Scarlet Citadel," "The Frost-Giant's Daughter," and "Queen of the Black Coast."

If a teacher assigned a project requiring you to draw up a list of the most influential authors in the fantasy/science fiction genre, Robert E. Howard would sit safely in the top five. Along with H.P. Lovecraft and Clark Ashton Smith, Howard was one of the groundbreaking influences in popular fiction of the 1930s. His influence is still felt today as evidenced by the large number of books containing stories based on his most popular creation, Conan the Cimmerian. Sadly, most of these newer tales, spun from unfinished fragments found in Howard's possession after his untimely demise in 1936, barely manage to attain a shadow of the glory found in the original tales. I think of Lin Carter's "Conan the Liberator," a truly awful piece of junk based on one of these fragments, and I shudder at the damage done to Robert Howard's reputation. That's why we should all give a warm round of applause to Del Rey for releasing this comprehensive collection of the earliest Conan stories. It's great to see a collection of the original tales available for sale at a reasonable price. Moreover, the book contains a foreword from the illustrator chosen to draw for this collection, a fascinating piece of criticism examining Howard's influences, and a few other goodies shedding even more light on how Conan came about. The order of the stories, too, mirrors exactly the sequence in which the author wrote them. "The Coming of Conan the Cimmerian" is, I am embarrassed to say, my first foray into the original Conan tales. I looked around for these things for

years, but always found the prices in the secondary market-usually for moth eaten copies of decades old versions-to much weight to place on my wallet.

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