



The Wizard of Venus

Edgar Rice Burroughs

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Mit den bisherigen vier Bänden lagen alle zu Lebzeiten des Autors veröffentlichten *Venus*-Geschichten in Buchform vor. 1941 sollte noch eine weitere Geschichte mit dem Titel *The Wizard Of Venus* folgen. Diese Geschichte stellt heute den fünften und letzten Band der *Amtor*-Saga dar.

In diesem letzten Abenteuer befinden sich Carson Napier und seine Gefährtin, Prinzessin Duare, auf dem Weg zum Königreich von Korva, um dort ein Leben in Frieden zu verbringen. Doch die Beschaulichkeit sollte für Carson nur von kurzer Dauer sein. Als der tatendurstige Terraner einen Routine-Testflug mit seiner Flugzeugkonstruktion durchführt, befindet er sich unversehens in einem neuen Abenteuer - in dem ein Misserfolg den Tod bedeuten würde...

Der *Amtor*- oder *Venus*-Zyklus von Edgar Rice Burroughs gehört zu den bekanntesten Science-Fiction-Romanen des *Tarzan*-Autors. In seiner Reihe APEX SF-KLASSIKER veröffentlicht der Apex-Verlag die ersten vier Romane als durchgesehene Neu-Ausgaben (in der Übersetzung von Thomas Schlück). Der fünfte Band, *Der Zauberer der Venus* (übersetzt von Irene Holicki), ergänzt um ein Vorwort von Richard Lupoff und die Novelle *Piratenblut*, erscheint als deutsche Erstveröffentlichung.

The Wizard of Venus Details

Date :

ISBN : 9780099108511

Author : Edgar Rice Burroughs

Format :

Genre : Science Fiction, Fantasy, Fiction, Pulp, Adventure

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From Reader Review The Wizard of Venus for online ebook

Barry Jenkins says

EXTREMELY POOR GRAMMAR

I give the book a two. I rate it a 3 as a story itself. I have read pretty much all of Burroughs books from Tarzan to Mars to Venus and others. This was the only one I would rate low. But the main reason for the low score has nothing at all to with the story. This book and ALL the others I have read on Amazon has SO many grammatical and spelling errors. In some books there is at least one error on every page. C'mon Amazon, surely you can do better. Find some people who can type for goodness sakes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Charles says

This book contains two novellas, "The Wizard of Venus," a Carson Napier tale, and an unrelated story called "Pirate's Blood." I thought the Venus piece was very strong and the other piece much weaker. "Pirate's Blood" was published posthumously, having been found in ERB's papers. Or so the story goes.

Leothefox says

Edgar Rice Burroughs is one of my favorite authors, so naturally I'm digging into every last entry in his major series, trying to get at more of the good stuff. "The Wizard of Venus" is to the Venus series what "John Cart of Mars" is to the Mars series: one last little unfinished piece for the completist.

Here continues the cycle that began in "Escape on Venus", in which the Carson Napier series broke down into a pattern of our hero being blown by storms into far fling corners of Venus and encountering pocket kingdoms where little Napoleons rule in complete ignorance of the rest of the planet. Granted, the ignorance theme runs throughout the series, but it does not impede the superior adventure of the first 3 books.

In this entry, Carson runs afoul of Morgas, a "wizard" who convinces people he has the power to transform them into barnyard animals. Morgas' power is largely one of hypnotism, so he affords Carson a chance to show off the mental powers he learned from Chand Kabi in "the mysterious east".

Seeing Carson finally using these powers in service of an adventure (instead of just the frame device in the first novel) makes one a little upset that it hadn't appeared in the other books, since it really could have helped in the countless situations where he lost his weapons. On the other hand, the power of illusion sort of turns this into an especially lightweight entry, resulting in far less action than what we're used to.

I'll call it a mixed bag, not as bad as some of the repetitive nonsense in "Escape on Venus", but not really worthy of the stuff in the first 3 books. It's almost like a cross between the epic Rainbow song "Stargazer" crossed with an old James Garner "Beef, it's what's for Dinner" commercial.

Now: "Pirate Blood"...

This is another short Burroughs novel, published for the first time in this Ace edition. There's a note about it by Donald A. Wolheim which suggests that it is a draft that Burroughs simply never got around to polishing for publication. On reading it, I think there may be some other factors that kept it from seeing publication in 1932 when it was written.

“Pirate Blood” is like many of Burroughs works in that it introduces a man of action who has an adventure when he is cast out of civilization. This time he's a motorcycle cop who winds up being taken off in a small airship by his old college buddy who has just robbed a bank. He gets stranded on an island among pirates in Southeast Asia.

The title comes from the fact that the hero, John Lafitte, is descended from a pirate and believes that genetics determine our destiny. This is a distinctly 1930s notion and it may be a reason why Burroughs didn't come back to this text since he generally seems to have set aside things like this when popular science moved on from them.

“Pirate Blood” also goes a little darker than Burroughs normally does, drifting into an amoral territory that is surprising, though refreshing. Lafitte rises in the ranks among the pirates and deals freely in murder and kidnapping and even starts a pirate breeding farm on the island. This also has a dark twist on Burroughs trademark romantic coincidence device, a rare occasion where you can't outguess him.

It's a rough nugget of a book, but in general it delivers on the Burroughs promise, as short and strange as it is.

Charles says

I like ERB's Barsoom series better than his Venus series, but these are fine and enjoyable adventures.

Ronald says

read between summer 1970 & summer 1974

ricky says

Very good

Very enjoyable. I like that he populates his worlds with a variety of different peoples and at different levels of technology.

Arwen says

The final stories of the adventures on Carson on Venus is unfinished. Both Wizard of Venus and Pirate Blood were found and published after ERB died. The Venus story is pretty much more of the same, but

Pirate Blood is a surprisingly interesting read. Pirate Blood is a novella about Johnny Lafitte whose ancestor was a pirate. The novella asks the question if “bad blood” stays in the family. Through a bizarre series of events he is kidnapped and ends up in the far east with the choice to be a victim or a pirate.

Tbfrank says

The Wizard of Venus, the final installment in ERB's Venus series, is notable mostly for the humor. The story is decidedly silly and the final adventure of Carson Napier is perhaps incomplete.

The companion tale, Pirate Blood, has all the elements expected in an ERB story but is a distinct departure for the author. A dark tale apparently drafted at a time when the science of genetics was in its infancy and the theories of eugenics dominated the field. Following the standard ERB formula, our hero (John Lafitte, distant relative of Jean Lafitte, the famous French pirate) is snatched from his normal world (a motorcycle cop in Southern California) and forced to accompany a friend turned embezzler during an escape via airship over the Pacific Ocean (a mode of transportation frequently in the news in the late 1920's and early 1930's -i.e., Graf Zeppelin, Akron, and Shenandoah). Moving from one near-deadly adventure after another, John reaches back to his ancestor's pirate blood to find the means for survival. He finds it easy to discard civilized behavior which he believes is merely a veneer masking his true nature. It is easy to cheer him on, thinking he will demonstrate a better nature but he rarely does so.

Overall, this slim volume demonstrates ERB's skill and why he remains popular. By itself, I'd rate Pirate Blood 3 stars but the Wizard story holds it to 2.

Jim says

This was a lost book from decades and was found in the 1970s. I was thrilled it was found and published. It brought many memories of great reading a few years before under the tree in my back yard. The Amtor (Venus)series is my second favorite series written by Edgar Rice Burroughs. I used to walk to Grand Central and gather bottles along the side of the road. I would be able to collect enough bottles and turn them in for the deposit for the next book in this (and all of his series)series of books!

Kristy says

Two posthumously published novellas by Burroughs -- one a Venusian adventure that centers around a nobleman who has convinced all the people around him that he is a wizard who can turn them into pigs, and the other a pirate adventure that explores the nature vs. nurture debate. Both fun (especially the dirigible bit in the pirate story), but you can tell they weren't quite finished yet -- good for Burroughs fans, probably not that great for a casual reader.

Erik says

The Wizard of Venus was ok, but Pirates Blood was a lot more fun!

Richard says

The two stories in this volume couldn't be more different. First, this Venus story is just unessential. As the series progressed I grew tired of it all and this story is just a waste of time. Second, Pirates Blood was an okay fiction story. Starring a resilient man like all of Burroughs protagonists that I've read so far. The life or death suspense goes out the window though when the story is in first person perspective. Neither story was published in Burroughs life time so maybe he wasn't ready to publish them. Not the best I've read by Burroughs, but like I said Pirates Blood was OK.

Neil says

Two short pieces unpublished until years after ERB's death.

The first "The Wizard Of Venus" is the last in this so-so series and is no improvement on the previous volumes, Burroughs was obviously intending it to be the first of several self contained but linked stories that he would have published first separately in magazines before combining them as a full length book as he had done with the likes of "Escape On Venus" "Llana of Gathol" and Savage Pellucidar.

The other story "Pirate Blood" is much longer, novella length and is at least more interesting. I was expecting if you like classic yo heave ho, shiver me timbers pirates and was quite surprised to find the story contemporary (1930's.) However the story and characters without exception are a thoroughly dislikeable bunch very much including the "hero." The second-half seems particularly rushed with far too much incident for it's length. The first half however isn't bad consisting mainly of drifting about in an airship. "Pirate Blood" though must have some of the most ridiculously unlikely coincidences in all of Burroughs fiction, and that's saying something!

Curtiss says

The stories of Carson Napier's adventures on Earth's sister planet are essentially ERB engaging in self-parody of the superior Barsoom stories. These stories are not high art, or even good sci-fi/fantasy; but ERB's Venus stories are fairly good yarns with exotic Venusian locales, fantastic beasts, flamboyant damsels, dastardly villains, and cliff-hanging adventures in which the hero gets the girl and the bad guy meets his (or her) just deserts.

[See, even I can engage in self-parody - see my John Carter story reviews.]

David Allen says

"Wizard," a 50-page novelette, brings a comic conclusion to the Venus series. "Pirate Blood" is a 100-page short novel in which a California motorcycle cop, the great-great-grandson of Jean LaFitte, learns that blood will out as he turns inexorably to South Seas piracy. While obviously not a model of neo-realism, it has its charms.

