



Huck Finn & Tom Sawyer Among the Indians

By Mark Twain, Lee Nelson

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Sequel to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* begun by Mark Twain in 1885, finished by Lee Nelson in 1885 while *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was becoming one of the best-selling American classics of modern times, Mark Twain began this sequel in which Huck Finn, Tom Sawyer, and Jim head west on the trail of two white girls kidnapped by Sioux warriors, learning the hard way that “book Injuns and real Injuns ain’t the same.” Fifteen thousand words into the work, Twain stopped in the middle of a sentence, never to go back. The unfinished story sat on dusty shelves for more than a hundred years until the University of California cut a deal with Utah author Lee Nelson to finish it. The story, *Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer Among the Indians*, is the first new book with Mark Twain’s name on it in nearly a hundred years, with readers saying they can’t tell where Twain stops and Nelson begins. It is a story of adventure, wit, and wisdom with Tom and Huck seeking true love while tramping through hostile Indian country, befriending Bill Hickman and Porter Rockwell, stealing from the United States Army, then facing a gunfight and hangman’s noose in Sacramento, California. Said Lee Nelson: “I have no idea how Twain intended to finish the story, and I reason that he didn’t know either or he would have done it. I just hope that wherever he is, he enjoys my conclusion as much as I enjoyed his beginning.”

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up-Though Twain began this story in 1885, it was never finished. As it opens, Tom convinces Huck and freed-slave Jim to head West to live with the "Injuns," just to prove that the red men are not the ornery savages the Widow Douglas has insisted they are. They soon join up with the Oregon-bound Mills family. A group of Sioux warriors befriend them but then slaughters the Mills boys and their parents, carrying off the two daughters, Peggy and Flaxy, and Jim. Huck and Tom join forces with Peggy's fianc., Brace, to rescue the captives and approach the Indian camp-and here ends Twain's part of the story. Nelson continues with Brace being killed and Tom and Huck left to continue the rescue. As was Twain's wont, Nelson does not shy away from touchy subjects-Peggy is raped by both the Indians and a white trader; an army sergeant molests unsuspecting adolescent boys, and relations between the Mormons and the U.S. are badly strained. There are scalplings, shootings, and a near hanging but by the end, Huck seems to be turning himself into "a right civilized" type, marrying Peggy and heading off into the sunset to start a new life. Nelson makes an effort to retain Twain's style of writing and does rather well with it. The adventure and harrowing escapes will keep readers interested, although purists may question whether Twain would have allowed Huck to give up his independence to marry Peggy. Nonetheless, the plot is intriguing, suspenseful, and well told, with plenty of realistic details to set the mood. Though Tom and Jim figure prominently in the beginning of this story, Huck is the clear hero, and his basic goodness never comes into question.

Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan, LaSalle Academy, Providence, RI

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About the Author

Mark Twain (1835-1910) was born Samuel L. Clemens in the town of Florida, Missouri. One of the most popular and influential authors our nation has ever produced, his keen wit and incisive satire earned him praise from both critics and peers. He has been called not only the greatest humorist of his age but also the father of American literature.

Grover Gardner is an award-winning narrator with over eight hundred titles to his credit. Named one of the "Best Voices of the Century" and a Golden Voice by *AudioFile* magazine, he has won three prestigious Audie Awards, was chosen Narrator of the Year for 2005 by *Publishers Weekly*, and has earned more than thirty Earphones Awards.

From [AudioFile](#)

Mark Twain's immortal characters come alive again in this sequel to THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN. Lee Nelson has picked up where Twain left off, using his unfinished manuscripts. The story is done well, capturing the spirit and adventure of Tom and Huck. Grover Gardner tells the tale in fine form, using the dialect made famous by Twain, and pacing the plot just as nicely. Tom and Huck find adventure on the Plains when they set out to learn what real Indians are like. The characters they meet are reminiscent of those in James Fenimore Cooper's LEATHERSTOCKING TALES. As in the earlier book, the pair find more than they bargained for. D.L.M. © AudioFile 2004, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile,

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carrie Mathis:

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