



Jack London

was born on January 12, 1876, in San Francisco, California. The family later settled in Oakland. He attended school sporadically, and while still a teenager, he left home to work and quench his thirst for adventure. By the age of 30, London was internationally renowned, both for his gripping tales of survival and his controversial lifestyle. He explored the world, using travel as a muse. Notably, his novels *Call of the Wild* (1903) and *White Fang* (1906) draw from his Alaskan expeditions. Despite London's success, he never made quite as much money as he expended. Financial strain, coupled with serious illness, should have slowed him down; however, he hardly went a day without writing his target 1,000 words. In 1916, at age 40, London died at his ranch in Glen Ellen, California, where he and his second wife, Charmian, had sought refuge from Oakland, the place he called "the man trap."



**"I would rather be ashes than dust!
I would rather that my spark should burn out
in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry-rot.
I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom
of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet.
The function of man is to live, not to exist.
I shall not waste my days trying to prolong them.
I shall use my time."**

JACK LONDON'S CREDO, THE BULLETIN,
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 2, 1916



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