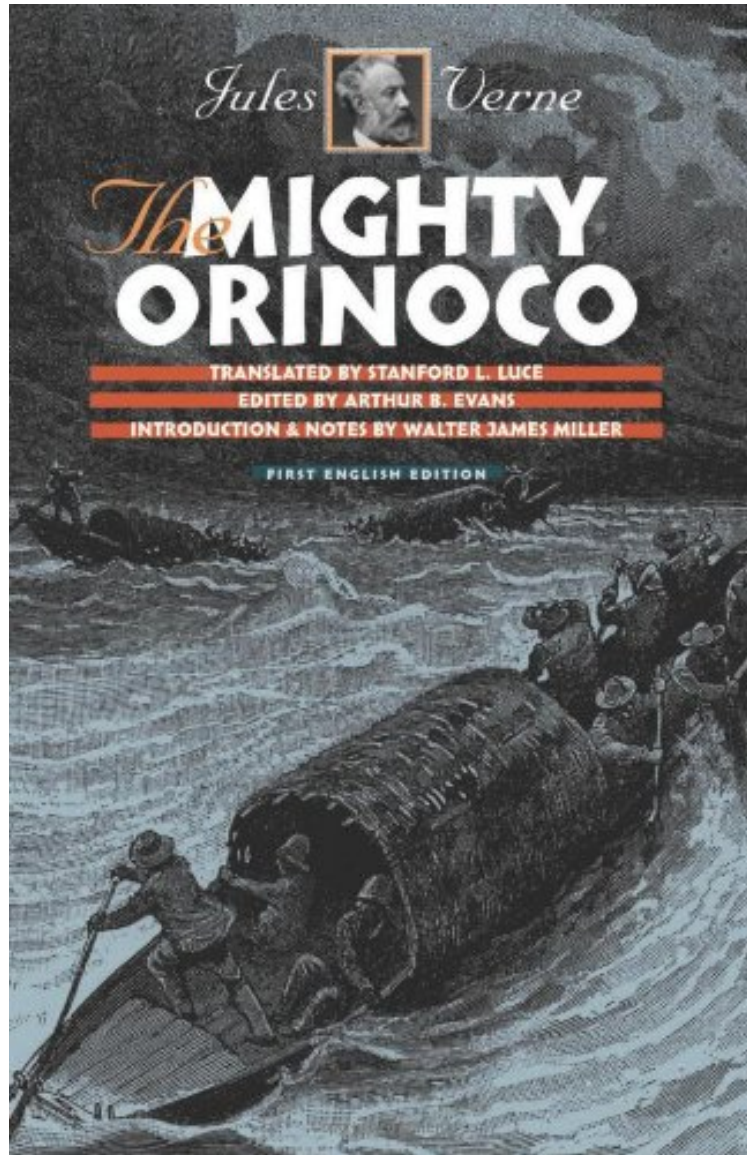


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The Mighty Orinoco (Early Classics of Science Fiction)

Jules Verne

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Jules Verne : The Mighty Orinoco (Early Classics of Science Fiction) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mighty Orinoco (Early Classics of Science Fiction):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Le Superbe Orenoque (The Mighty Orinoco)By Boutros GhassibiLe superbe orenoque est superbe !0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GREAT READ!!By Vincent LauriaAnother great book story by Gules Verne and I would recommend this to anyone who is into Jules Verne adventures. Adventure, jungles, river dangers, a little romance and more. I just love this story!!V. LauriaShirley,NY3

of 3 people found the following review helpful. The First English Edition By Dave_42 "The Mighty Orinoco" is the third Jules Verne book in the Early Classics of Science Fiction series, and the sixth book overall. The series is impressive, and this edition is no exception. The novel was first published as "Le Superbe Ornoque" in "Magasin" from January 1st through December 15th of 1898, and is the 45th of his scientific fiction stories. As with all the Voyages Extraordinaires, Verne builds an adventure story off of a solid scientific base. For this book, Verne used Jean Chaffanjon's account of his real life journeys from his book "L'Ornoque et le Caura". Where that account leaves off, Verne is forced to invent, but for the vast majority of the story, Verne's descriptions of the river, rapids, flora, fauna, and human communities were all extremely accurate. It is easy for us today to not think of this novel as science fiction (or scientific fiction as Verne called it); however, in the days before satellites and space ships taking pictures of the Earth, matters of geography were definitely of scientific interest. While Verne endeavored to create a solid scientific basis for this story, there is much more to it than simply the search for the origin of the river. In addition to the search for the source of the river by M. Miguel, M. Felipe, and M. Varinas, there is a parallel story of the search by Jean Kermor and Sergeant Martial, who claim to be an uncle and nephew, searching for Colonel de Kermor who is supposed to be the father of Jean. Sergeant Martial tries to keep Jean and himself separate from the other travelers, but as they are following the same path for different reasons, there is no choice but for the groups to interact. Along the way they find Jacqus Helloch and Germain Paterne, and now the main characters are together for most of the journey. Verne does have some twists in the story, but unlike today's writers, he provides so many clues as to what these twists are, that the reader is well ahead of the characters. Still, it would not be fair to include any spoilers here, and so I will refrain from going into any further details of the story. One of the interesting themes which Verne touches on in this book is race and racism. At times, the reader has to forgive what appear to be racist comments in the text. On the other hand, Verne does have a significant number of characters from the "lesser" races in positions of unusual authority. One has to wonder if Verne isn't well ahead of his time in showing that the racist stereotypes are false. The novel is divided into two sections. The first section introduces most of the major characters, and they are together. It ends when the group reaches San Fernando, and with the revelation of one of the big secrets. The second section takes us the rest of the way, and in addition to the story lines which have already been mentioned, the story line of a group of outlaws and renegade Indians interweaves with the other story lines more and more. The pace of this story will feel slow, especially when compared with modern fiction. The book runs 370 pages, and those who don't like all the detail with which Verne fills the chapters will probably not care for it much. On the other hand, those who have read and enjoyed other Verne stories should enjoy this one. This is the first English edition of this book, translated by Stanford L. Luce. As with the other books in the Early Classics of Science Fiction, there is some supporting material as well. There is a short, but informative, introduction written by Walter James Miller, Professor of English at New York University. Professor Miller also provides some excellent notes for the story. There is bibliography of Jules Verne's works, and a short biography of Verne by Editor Arthur B. Evans.

Jules Verne (1828-1905) was the first author to popularize the literary genre of science fiction. Written in 1898 and part of the author's famous series Voyages Extraordinaires, *The Mighty Orinoco* tells the story of a young man's search for his father along the then-uncharted Orinoco River of Venezuela. The text contains all the ingredients of a classic Verne scientific-adventure tale: exploration and discovery, humor and drama, dastardly villains and intrepid heroes, and a host of near-fatal encounters with crocodiles, jungle fever, Indians and outlaws all set in a wonderfully exotic locale. *The Mighty Orinoco* also includes a unique twist that will appeal to feminists readers will need to discover it for themselves. This Wesleyan edition features notes, and a critical introduction by renowned Verne scholar Walter James Miller, as well as reproductions of the illustrations from the original French edition. CONTRIBUTORS: Walter James Miller, Stanford Luce, Arthur B. Evans."

From Publishers Weekly *The Mighty Orinoco* (1898), Jules Verne's novel of scientific adventure along Venezuela's Orinoco River, appears in its first English translation, along with an introduction and notes by Walter James Miller. Translated by Stanford L. Luce and edited by Arthur B. Evans, the text includes all the illustrations from the original French edition. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Jules Verne was the Michael Crichton of the 19th century, a fabulist whose ability to link technology with imagination to create riveting pop-culture products was uncanny."--The New York Times "Surprisingly, this is the first English translation of Verne's 1898 novel...[and] features Verne's usual mix of action and the fantastic... A beauty."--Library Journal The New York Times "Library Journal" Jules Verne was the Michael Crichton of the 19th century, a fabulist whose ability to link technology with imagination to create riveting pop-culture products was uncanny. The New York Times "Surprisingly, this is the first English translation of Verne's 1898 novel [and] features Verne's usual mix of action and the fantastic A beauty. Library Journal" Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: French