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**The Call for the Wild  
and Other Stories  
野性的呼唤**

**Jack London**

**Syllabus designer: David Foulds**

**[注释] 张红玲 刘昌武**

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# The Call of the Wild and Other Stories

Jack London



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**野性的呼唤**

**原 著: Jack London**

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## THE CALL OF THE WILD: PART ONE

### From California to the North

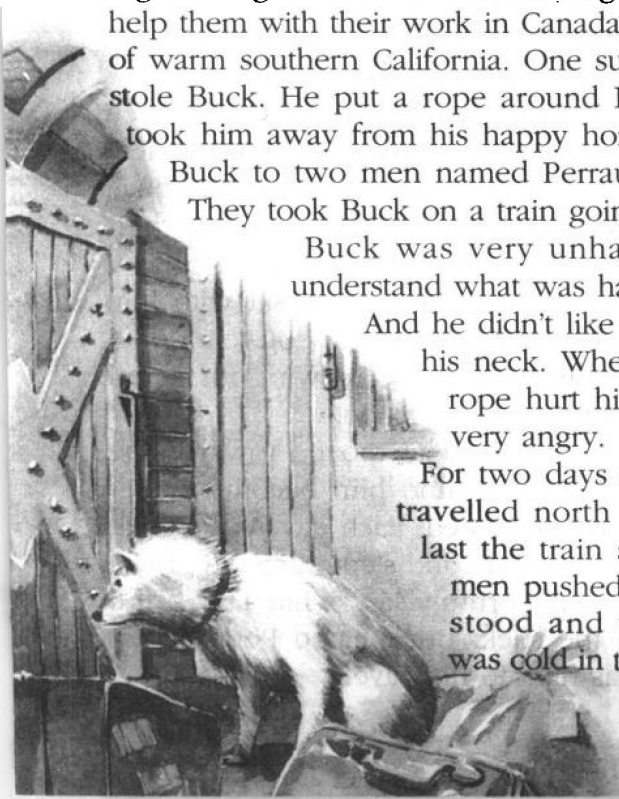
Buck was a very happy dog. For four years he lived at Judge Miller's house in warm southern California. Buck had a lazy, pleasant life. Then one day Manuel, the Judge's gardener, lost all his money, and Buck's life changed. 5

Manuel knew Buck was big and strong. He also knew some men who would pay a lot of money for a good dog. These men needed large, strong dogs to help them with their work in Canada, far to the north of warm southern California. One sunny day Manuel stole Buck. He put a rope around Buck's neck and took him away from his happy home. Manuel sold Buck to two men named Perrault and François. They took Buck on a train going north. 10 15

Buck was very unhappy. He didn't understand what was happening to him.

And he didn't like the rope around his neck. When he pulled, the rope hurt his throat. He was very angry. 20

For two days and nights Buck travelled north on the train. At last the train stopped and the men pushed Buck out. Buck stood and waited. The air was cold in this strange place. 25



5 talking and laughing with other men at the railway station. Buck was sad and very angry. He pulled on the rope. Perrault and François told him to stop pulling. But he pulled on the rope again and again. Then it happened.

Buck saw François holding a stick in his hand



One day the boat slowed down and stopped. The men put the ropes on the dogs and led them off the boat. Buck stepped off the boat and felt something like mud on his feet. It was wet and cold. It was not really mud. It was a white colour. He felt some cold white bits hitting his face. He tried brushing them away but the bits disappeared before he could hit them. The men watched Buck and laughed at him. Buck didn't know that he was in the land of snow and ice. He was standing in snow for the first time in his life.

### **The land of snow and ice**

Buck's easy life was over. François and Perrault were his new owners. He had to do what they told him. They often hit him with a rope or a stick. Soon Buck learned something else about life in the North.

On their first day in the land of snow and ice, Buck and Curly met some other dogs. François and Perrault were their owners, too. Curly tried to make friends with one of them. The dog was angry. It attacked Curly. Soon the other dogs attacked Curly. In a few minutes poor Curly lay on the ground covered with blood. He was dead.

Buck was frightened and sad. He didn't understand why the animals killed his friend. He was angry, but he knew he couldn't fight all the dogs at one time. And fighting was new to Buck.

François pulled Curly's body away. Then Perrault put some things around Buck's neck. Buck had seen something like them before. The horses at the Judge's house wore them when they worked. It was a harness, fastened on an animal's neck to make it pull things.

Buck was put in a line with the other dogs and together they pulled a large sledge. François and Perrault drove the sledge. They whipped the dogs to make them go faster and faster. This was new to  
 5 Buck. It was hard work. The sledge was heavy and the ground was cold on Buck's feet.

A dog called Spitz was the leader. When Buck went the wrong way he felt the whip on his back or the bite of the dog beside him. Buck was tired and angry but he wanted to live so he did as  
 he was told.



They pulled the sledge all day. At last Perrault and François stopped the dogs and  
 15 made a camp for the night. Buck was hungry and tired. His feet hurt from running on the hard, icy ground. He ate his supper of raw meat quickly. It was not cooked, but it tasted good. After supper the other dogs went away. Buck was so cold  
 20 and there was no place for him to sleep. There was

only snow. He looked around the camp. The other dogs were gone. Then he heard noises coming from under the snow. He dug the snow away and there was Spitz, sleeping. That night Buck learned how animals slept in the North. He dug a hole and sat down in it. Soon he was covered with snow. Soon he felt warm, and he slept all night. 5

And so the days went by. The dogs pulled the sledge forty miles each day across the snow and ice. Buck learned to pull the sledge. He learned to fight for his food. He learned to get angry and show his teeth to the other dogs. Slowly, he was becoming a wild animal. As time went by, Buck couldn't remember much about the Judge or warm, sunny, southern California. He wanted to live. And to live in the North he knew he must become the strongest dog of all. 10 15

### **Buck and Spitz**

The men and the nine dogs had to travel five hundred miles. Buck did his job. Each day he pulled the sledge. He became stronger and stronger. Spitz, the leader, didn't like Buck. Spitz knew Buck wanted to be the leader of the dogs. 20

At the end of one long day, the dogs sat down to go to sleep. Buck and Spitz were angry with each other. Both dogs knew they would soon fight to the death. 25

Then the dogs heard some noises. They moved from their holes in the snow to see what was happening. They saw their food being eaten by a group of strange dogs. François, Perrault, and the nine dogs ran to the food tent. 30

The strange dogs were very hungry. There were about thirty of them. They were eating the food as quickly as they could. Buck had never seen dogs like these. They were so thin that you could see their  
5 bones under their skin.

Buck and the others attacked the strangers. But the 'thirty thieves' were so hungry they didn't run away. A fight started. François and Perrault hit the strange dogs with sticks. But the dogs got much of the food.  
10 Then they ran from the camp. Buck, Spitz and the other seven lay in the snow, tired and bleeding.

Buck learned that hungry dogs will do anything to get food.



15 Perrault and François let the dogs rest for one day after the fight. When the dogs felt better they started on their five hundred mile journey again. Day after day they pulled the sledge.

20 Sometimes Spitz tried stealing Buck's food. Buck would attack but François always stopped the two dogs from fighting. The other seven dogs knew that there would soon be a big fight. It was very simple.

Buck wanted to be the leader of the dogs. One day it happened.

Buck was walking around the edge of the camp. Spitz attacked him. He bit Buck's throat, then his face. Buck was angry, very angry. It was time for the fight. 5

Both animals knew it was a fight to the death. Buck ran at Spitz. Spitz pulled away then jumped on Buck's back and bit his neck. Buck knocked him on to the ground. He put his teeth into Spitz's neck and killed him. 10

The other seven dogs came to Buck and licked him. Buck stood and looked at the other dogs. He was their new leader. He was the wildest and strongest dog of all.

### A change of job

15

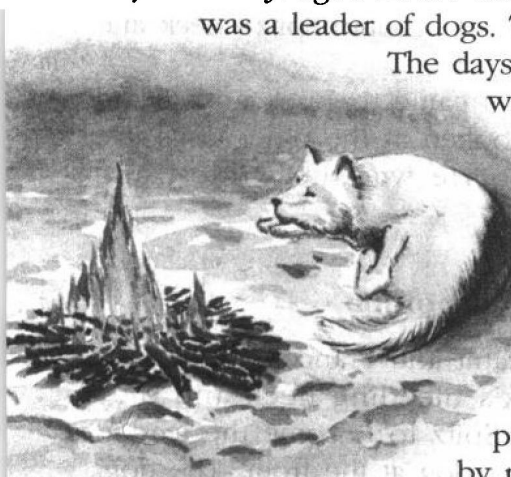
The next morning Perrault and François looked for Spitz. They saw Buck's bleeding neck and they knew Buck had killed Spitz to become the leader. But François put another dog at the front. The dog, Soleks, was frightened of Buck and moved away. 20 Buck had won the fight with Spitz. He wanted to be at the front. At last, François and Perrault gave Buck his way.

With Buck in the front, the dogs went twice as far each day. He loved his job. Each day he made the others move faster and faster. Buck led the dogs to the town of Skagway, and his job with François and Perrault was finished. The men said goodbye to the dogs and sold them. 25

Buck and the other dogs were sold to mail carriers. 30 The mail carriers' job was to move the mail across the most dangerous paths in the North. The mail was

heavy. Buck didn't like this work. Each day was the same. Buck led the others as they pulled the heavy mail sledge across the snow and ice. The dogs ate fish. They missed the meat François and Perrault had  
 5 fed them.

Sometimes at night Buck would sit by the fire and look at the flames. He would think about the lazy days at the Judge's house and feel sad. But now he was a leader of dogs. That made him happy.



The days went by and the work was hard. All the dogs grew thin. Dave was the first to become ill. He was a good dog. He always worked hard, but he was tired. His feet and legs hurt and he cried from the pain. Buck helped Dave by pulling harder. One day  
 Dave fell down. Then, the next day, he fell again.

The men talked about Dave. They knew he was ill. One morning he couldn't move at all. The men led  
 25 the other dogs away from the camp. Buck and the others watched one of the men go back to where Dave was lying in the snow. They heard the shot from the gun. Buck and the others knew what had happened to Dave. The man had shot him and he  
 30 was dead.

Buck was sad about Dave's death. He thought of how important it was to be the strongest dog. He wanted to live. He knew he must always be the strongest dog of all.

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## THE CALL OF THE WILD:

### PART TWO

#### Charles, Mercedes and Hal

Thirty days after Dave was shot, the mail job was over. But the dogs were very tired. They had lost weight and needed a rest. The mail men sold Buck and the other dogs to three people who wanted to go on holiday. The mail men said goodbye to Buck. 5

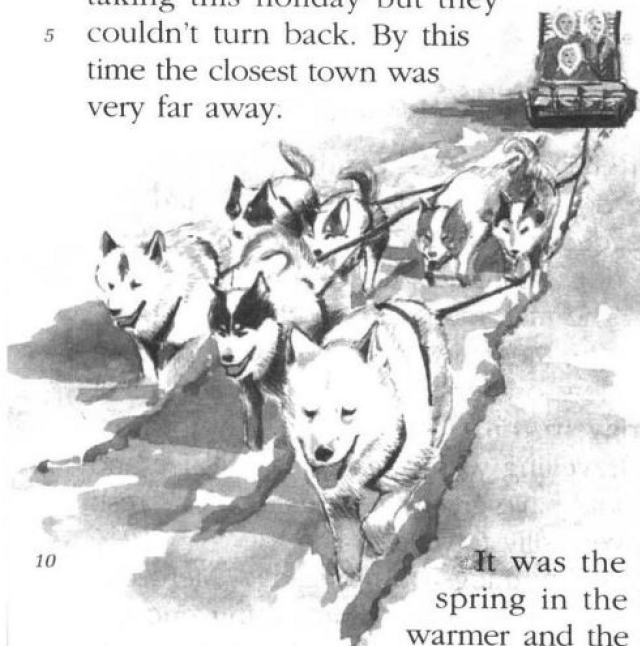
Charles, his wife, Mercedes, and Mercedes' brother, Hal, were the new owners. These three had never been on holiday in the North before. They knew nothing about travelling with dogs across the ice and snow. They should have given the dogs a week's rest. But they were very silly travellers. 10

They put too many things on the sledge. Mercedes had too many clothes. Charles didn't bring enough dog food. The tired dogs tried to pull the sledge. It wouldn't move. Charles hit them with a whip. The dogs tried again. The sledge moved, then it fell over. It was too heavy. They took off some of the things and the sledge was lighter. At last they left on their holiday. 15 20

Buck was very tired, but he did his job. The first night at camp Charles and Hal tried to put up their tent. Buck watched them. The tent fell. They tried again. Buck knew these people were new to the North. Mercedes gave the dogs too much food. Buck watched and he knew this was going to be a hard journey. 25



In a few days the dog food was almost all eaten. Mercedes was cold. She didn't like this holiday. Charles and Hal knew they had made a mistake in taking this holiday but they  
 5 couldn't turn back. By this time the closest town was very far away.



10

It was the beginning of spring in the North. It got warmer and the snow and ice started to melt. Buck felt this

under his feet. He knew they should not travel on the  
 15 frozen river. He knew it was dangerous. He knew they could fall through the ice and die. But Charles made the dogs travel on the frozen river.

### John Thornton

The long days went by. The travellers were unhappy.  
 20 The dogs were hungry and unhappy too. One day they came to a camp. It was the camp of a man named John Thornton. He had two dogs called Skeet and Nig.

John Thornton welcomed the tired travellers. He saw the dogs. He watched Charles, Mercedes and Hal. He knew they were silly travellers. The dogs looked almost dead. He gave Charles, Mercedes and Hal some hot coffee. John Thornton was a good man. 5  
He was sad when he looked at the dogs.

Charles said goodbye to John Thornton. He stood and told the dogs to move. Buck was so tired. He didn't move. He wanted to die. Charles hit Buck with the whip. This made John Thornton very angry. He 10  
jumped and took the whip from Charles.

'What are you doing, Thornton?' said the angry Charles.

'If you hit that dog again, I'll kill you,' said John Thornton. He held his knife in his right hand. 15

'It's my dog,' said Charles. Mercedes was crying and Hal was frightened.

'The dog stays with me,' said Thornton. He looked at poor Buck.

Charles knew that Thornton was a man of the 20  
North. He could fight, and win.

'All right, you can have the dog, Thornton,' said Charles. 'He's no use to us. He's almost dead.' He and Mercedes and Hal wanted to leave. The other dogs moved slowly. They went to the sledge. Buck 25  
was still as he lay on the ground.

'You're silly to travel on the river,' said Thornton. 'The ice is melting. It's dangerous.'

But Charles was a silly man. He and the others left and went down to the river. Thornton knew they 30  
would go through the ice. He turned and looked at poor Buck.

John Thornton looked for broken bones on Buck's thin body. He rubbed Buck's back and legs. He