

THE INFLUENCE OF JACK LONDON'S LIFE ON MARTIN EDEN

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Abstract:

The novel "Martin Eden" became a huge literary asset for literature - the creative peak of Jack London's work. In Soviet times, domestic critics repeatedly tried to interpret the novel as a denunciation of the venality of bourgeois society, the victim of which was the progressive society, which eventually capitulated. Such criticism is justified, but still too unambiguous and harsh. The reasons that led Martin to the catastrophe of his life lie deeper, and it is not only about "surrender". After all, Martin didn't churn out book after book when publishers snapped up everything he wrote. He passed away, realizing that the talent had left him forever. The image of the laws of "success" faded into the background when London fully felt the scale and significance of the image of the artist that he created. The writer formulated the theme of the novel himself: "the tragedy of a loner trying to inspire the world with the truth." The hero's drama does not begin at the moment of his meeting with Ruth Morse. The disproportion of their spiritual horizons is too obvious for Ruth to seriously influence Martin by introducing him to her vulgar "ideals". In his relationship with Ruth, a conflict of aesthetic beauty and harsh life reality plays out, which will affect the further fate of the hero and become an insoluble contradiction of his entire life.

Key words: Bourgeois society, criticism, influence, relationship, hero, character, success, education, socialism, weakness.

Introduction

The novel "Martin Eden" was written by the great writer Jack London and was first published in *The Pacific Monthly* in 1908-1909, and in 1909 it was published as a separate book by Macmillan. The novel is largely autobiographical: Martin Eden and Jack London have a lot in common. Both of them came from the lower strata of society and achieved great success in literature only by their own efforts. Jack London tried many things in his youth; He wrote his works based on his experiences as a sailor, factory worker, and laundry company worker. The image of Ruth was taken from Jack London's first love, Mabel Epplegart.

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The whole book is a collection of struggles for development, learning, and overcoming difficulties. It is a novel that describes the writing journey of Jack London, with life and authenticity on every page. As with all of his works, it is not difficult to determine how much of the author's autobiography he used in this novel. If you do not dwell on the details of the work, then you can find in it precisely the struggle, humanity and individuality of Jack London.

After seeing Ruth, Martin Eden decides for himself two things: to win the girl's love and to do it through culture. He is a simple sailor who has made many voyages in the South Seas, but he is fascinated by Ruth and the world she lives in.

Martin willingly begins to learn from books from the library. Martin Eden is a great example of an educational novel. It is not difficult to see every stage of his development and his achievements, his joys, the steps he takes to be respected through books.

In the first two decades of the twentieth century, no literary success could compare with the world-wide, almost instantaneous fame that Jack London radiated, probably unexpectedly for himself. And this sweet and painful burden was laid at his feet not by the magazine critic, this professional, slow, strict and cowardly sorter of market goods, but by the equally sensitive, attentive, albeit demanding and cruel reader, who has long been conducting criticism in tow of his capricious but sensitive hobbies.

This is one of the proofs of the correctness of our opinion. Russian priestly criticism first turned its cumbersome and condescending attention to Jack London only after the release of his novel *Martin Eden*. This novel is not bad at all, let's say more: it is quite worthy of its powerful author.

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The fate of the novel *Martin Eden*, which, according to some critics, is one of the best novels written by Americans, turned out differently in America than usual. He was coldly received by the press. According to Irving Stone, after the novel was published in a magazine, the publisher Bret had difficulty finding in the reviews a few lines of praise necessary to advertise the novel published as a separate book. "Most critics, including socialist observers, have criticized the novel as an apologia for individualism and proof that London had ceased to believe in socialism."

London's novel provided a great deal of material for thought. The press, literature - all official propaganda instilled in the American the idea that in the United States the path to a career was open to everyone. But if the strongest and most talented lose the will to live at the end of the journey, what awaits others? If Martin became a writer by accident, how can others be successful? London's book was a crushing blow to the legend of American exceptionalism. It is not for nothing that the American literary critic M. Geismar called the novel one of the evillest books in American literature.

Does *Martin Eden* himself think that books make life easier, more pleasant and interesting? No. Martin will always be a rude sailor who likes to speak directly. But culture brings him closer to Ruth, and that was his goal. But a new perspective appears on his way: he discovers that he can write the literature he loves. Stealing time from sleep, working tirelessly nineteen hours a day, living a miserable life, almost impoverished, he writes his first stories and sends them to the best magazines in the country. Even if you can't get the editor's attention and accumulate rejected originals on your desk, don't despair. He thinks that if he can get his work published, Ruth will fall in love with him.

But we do not believe that there is a concept of culture in his actions. It does not matter to him whether to publish or even to write; The main thing is to make money. If you're not rich, you're nobody. Jack London, like his hero, was an American, which means he was a pragmatist. For this society, money brings happiness, or rather; This is the only thing that brings happiness. The novel tells the story of a small man sitting in front of a typewriter and trying to fight the brutal power of large publishers. In this pragmatic society, you can be the best writer in the world, but if you don't get published and your books don't sell, you're nothing; not even a writer.

No one trusts Martin except himself. Others do not believe that he will find his place in life and overcome difficulties. *Martin Eden* is a lonely, strong, illiterate, but kind, stubborn and purposeful man from a poor family who has seen and felt a lot in his life. He is not afraid of hard and dirty work.

The novel looks like a splicing of two parts with two different characters. The first part is a story about a sailor who decided to win the girl of his dreams, so he was engaged in self-education and thought about a career as a writer. Potentially, this should have been a typical "success story". The second is the story of a talented, but unclaimed writer who is intellectually significantly superior to his environment.

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At the end of the novel, a person is forced to come to the conclusion that everything that a strong person can achieve ceases to be valuable to him as he achieves it. And Rough Morse suddenly turns out to be a bourgeois dummy, and money is paper, and writer's fame, and the ingratiating of society begin to burden rather than please. Any feasible task is too small for people like *Martin Eden*. In this sense, of course, London was right when he remarked that if his hero had been a socialist, he would not have committed suicide. After all, socialism sets itself deliberately unattainable goals, which means that they do not depreciate.

The work stands out because it is written very impressively, and despite the fact that it is very similar to the living, it has an impressive and sad idea. If the novel reflects human suffering through dreams and hopes, then the end of the work ends with sadness and depression. One thing is for sure, what keeps a person in this life is the dreams of his loved ones, if these two are not found, life is meaningless. But when one dream is achieved, he creates another dream and tries to make it come true. Being ready for the final result, you should not forget about the hard work that has been put into it.

Because in this way a person continues to live his life. It's not his fault that the environment isn't what he expected, just as he hasn't been able to find a solution to any problem in his life. Bourgeois society first poisoned *Martin's* talent and then led him to death. But there is another reason for the artist's death. This is that *Martin* lost his way to people - to where he came from, and where, who feed his talent and characters. He lost his habitat. In addition, the influence of Nietzsche's ideas was strong and destructive: they caused *Martin's* painful individualism, from which he could no longer be free.

The novel "Martin Eden" is a deeply realistic work, as a true story about the fate of a talented writer who could not bear a tough struggle with a hostile social system precisely because he was alone.

Jack London gave this problem "eternal" significance. After all, his hero is an artist who came from the people, and this is a phenomenon that became characteristic only in the 20th century. And the essence of this drama is not limited to the fact that Martin will face poverty and that he will spend all the creative energy allotted to him before recognition comes to him. Surely he could have done more and not have paid for every step in his art, otherwise he would not have brought into it a completely reckless view of his stern outlook.

A young artist will never be able to sit as an honorary guest on literary matinees; He catches delighted glances on himself, and is no longer able, dropping off the accumulated load of culture, to go down to his world.

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