

White Fang

Jack London

Chapter

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At Fort Yukon

When White Fang was nearly five years old, Gray Beaver took him on another long journey. They traveled down the Mackenzie River, and across the mountains to the Yukon River. They stayed in many camps along the way. At each place White Fang brought terrible trouble. He was such a fierce animal. As soon as a dog growled at him, White Fang jumped at its throat.

After several months, Gray Beaver and White Fang arrived at Fort Yukon. And there they stopped. There were many Indians there, and a lot of excitement. It was the summer of 1898. Thousands of gold-hunters were going up

the Yukon River to Dawson and the Klondike. The hunters were looking for gold and many of them stopped at Fort Yukon on their way. They rested there, and bought things for their journey.

Gray Beaver knew about the gold rush, and he had with him a lot of shoes, gloves and furs—animal coats. Everyone wanted to buy them and Gray Beaver made a lot of money.

At Fort Yukon, White Fang saw white men for the first time. Every few days, a big boat arrived and stopped there for a while. There were many white men on the boats. And many of them came from a long way away. They stopped at Fort Yukon for a while. Then they sailed up the river on the boats again.

White Fang quickly found that the white men's dogs were weak. None of them knew how to fight. And because White Fang now hated all dogs, he attacked them all. When the dogs came off the boats, they ran at him. To them, he was a wolf. He was the Wild. And because they had a great fear of the Wild, they wanted to attack him. But he always jumped to the side. Then he knocked them down, and bit their throats. After that, the Indian dogs jumped on the white men's dogs and tore them to pieces. White Fang was clever. He knew that the man-animals got angry when their dogs were killed. He always started an attack, but he let the pack of Indian dogs kill the white men's dogs. Then the white men rushed in, hitting the dogs. And White Fang just stood nearby, watching.

One white man took out his gun when his dog was killed. He killed six Indian dogs from the pack. White Fang enjoyed it all. Gray Beaver was busy selling things, and there was no work for White Fang. So he stayed waiting for boats all day.

There were a few white men living in Fort Yukon. They did not like the new white men who came off the boats every day. So they liked seeing White Fang and the Indian dogs attack the travelers' dogs. When a boat arrived, they often came down to the river. They enjoyed watching the dog fights.

But one man enjoyed the fights more than anyone else. He came running as soon as he heard a boat arrive. He watched all the fights. And sometimes, when a dog was killed, he jumped into the air in excitement. Best of all, this man liked watching White Fang. He saw how clever Gray Beaver's dog was.

This man was called "Beauty" by the other men. He worked as a cook at the fort. The men called him Beauty as a joke, because he was certainly not beautiful. He was a small man, with a large, heavy mouth. He had big yellow teeth and dirty yellow eyes. On some parts of his head he had lots of hair, and on others he had none.

Beauty Smith was a horrible-looking man. He was also often very angry. As soon as Beauty Smith saw White Fang, he wanted him. He tried to make friends with the wolf, but White Fang just growled. White Fang did not like Beauty Smith. He could feel that this man was bad.

One day, Beauty Smith came to Gray Beaver's camp. As soon as White Fang heard the man coming, he growled. Then he walked away to the other side of the camp. He did not want to be near Beauty Smith.

Beauty Smith wanted to buy White Fang. But Gray Beaver would not sell him. The Indian had a lot of money now, and he did not need any more. White Fang was a very strong sled-dog. He was leader of the sled pack. He was a great leader and a great fighter. Gray Beaver did not want to sell him.

But Beauty Smith kept coming to the camp. He started bringing whiskey—a strong alcoholic drink—when he came to see Gray Beaver. The more whiskey Gray Beaver drank, the more he wanted. He spent more and more of his money on whiskey. At last his money was all gone. Once more, Beauty Smith asked about buying White Fang. This time, he said he would pay Gray Beaver with bottles of whiskey. And this time Gray Beaver said yes.

White Fang did not want to go with Beauty Smith. When the man came to take him away, he jumped at him. He tried to bite him. Beauty Smith put a leather strap around his neck. Then he hit White Fang with a stick until he followed him back to his home. But as soon as Beauty Smith went to bed, White Fang bit quickly through the strap. Then he walked back to Gray Beaver's camp. He did not have an agreement with Beauty Smith. He was Gray Beaver's dog, not Beauty Smith's.

In the morning, Beauty Smith came to take White Fang away again. First, he gave White Fang a beating—he hit him again and again. He hit him much harder than Gray Beaver. Beauty Smith enjoyed hitting White Fang. His eyes lit up as he heard the dog's cries of pain. Beauty Smith had no power among other men. So he enjoyed having power over animals that were weaker than himself.

Once again, Beauty Smith took White Fang home. This time he tied him up with a stick. But once again, White Fang bit through the stick that he was tied up with. And once again he went back to Gray Beaver. When Beauty

Smith came back to get White Fang, he hit him even harder than before. When Beauty Smith stopped hitting him, White Fang was sick. He could not walk at first, and Beauty Smith had to wait. But at last, weak and shaking, White Fang followed the white man back to his home.

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This time, Beauty Smith tied White Fang with a metal chain. Again and again, White Fang tried to pull the chain from the wall. But even he could not free himself this time.

After a few days, Gray Beaver set off back to the Mackenzie, with no money and no dog. White Fang stayed at Fort Yukon. He had a new master now—he was another man's dog. And this master was more like an animal than a man.

Read Chapter 6 and answer the questions

1. Why did Gray Beaver go to Fort Yukon?

2. What did White Fang do at Fort Yukon?

3. Why did Beauty Smith go to see Gray Beaver?.

4. Why did Gray Beaver sell White Fang in the end?

5. White Fang ran away from Beauty Smith twice. How did he get free?
