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opening extract from

Classics Illustrated: The Jungle Book

written by

Rudyard Kipling

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THE JUNGLE BOOK

by RUDYARD KIPLING

This is the story of the Jungle Folk and the law they live by...of Akela, the lone wolf, and Bagheera, the black panther...of Shere Kahn, the lame tiger and Tabaqui, the jackal...of Baloo, the brown bear...of Kaa, the python...of Raksha, the wolf...and above all...of Mowgli, the man-cub who came to live among them after his parents had been frightened away by Shere Kahn.

STORY ONE
MOWGLI'S BROTHERS

And who are you, little man, who sits before me unafraid, knows not the name of our King and talks our talk through a man's lips?

They call me Mowgli. I am of the Jungle and the wolves are my people...and Kaa is my brother. And who are you, Father of the Cobras?

I am the Warden of the King's Treasure.

What treasure? What do you guard? I see nothing to take away!

By the gods of the sun and moon, a madness is upon the boy! Look...and see what no man has ever seen before!

But Mowgli did not understand the value of these treasures. Only one thing struck his fancy...