
Jules Verne

Dick Sands the Boy Captain (Extraordinary Voyages #17)



Title: Dick Sands the Boy Captain
(Extraordinary Voyages #17)

Author: Jules Verne

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Description

In 1878 appeared *Dick Sands*, the epic of the slave trade. This picture of the wilds of Africa, its adventures and its dangers, the savage hunting both of beasts and men, has always been a favorite among Verne's readers.

It contains no marvels, no inventions, but merely, amid stirring scenes and actions seeks to convey two truthful impressions. One is the traveler's teaching the geographical information, the picture of Africa as explorers, botanists, and zoologists have found it. The other is the moral lesson of the awful curse of slavery, its brutalizing, horrible influence upon all who come in touch with it, and the absolutely devastating effect it has had upon Africa itself.

Insightful reviews

Maria: I liked this a lot growing up, but not so much when I reread it several years later. Not the best of Verne's works, as far as I'm concerned, but still fun, and definitely good times when I was a kid.

Pramod Nair: '**Dick Sands, the Boy Captain** from *Jules Verne* – the seventeenth book in the '*Voyages Extraordinaires*' series - is an epic tale of maritime adventure. Originally written in French as '*Un capitaine de quinze ans*' this 1878 classic blends *a thrilling story of bravery, adventure, deception and revenge with stirring narrations of the perils of the Oceans, accounts of the fascinating geography and natural life of Equatorial Africa and the horrors of slave trade* which will keep the reader glued to the book.

Set against the backdrop of the African wilderness this is the captivating coming of age story of a 15-year-old boy who is suddenly entrusted with momentous responsibilities by fate. ([view spoiler](#))

The level of detailing that Verne goes into while describing the sights and sounds that surround the plot is staggering. The geographic details, animal life - especially the insect life – and the plant life of Africa are all meticulously illustrated. As can be observed from a passage given below, the detailed way in which he describes the story makes the reader *virtually experience* the backdrops of each scene within the canvas of his mind in vivid clarity.

The weather was very hot; ever since daybreak heavy clouds had been gathering upon the horizon, and it seemed hardly likely that the day would pass without a storm. Fortunately the woods were sufficiently light to ensure a certain amount of freshness to the surface of the soil. Here and there were large patches of tall, rank grass enclosed by clumps of forest trees. In some places, fossilized trunks, lying on the ground, betokened the existence of one of the coal districts that are common upon the continent of Africa. Along the glades the carpet of verdure was relieved by crimson stems and a variety of flowers; ginger-blossoms, blue and yellow, pale lobelias, and red orchids fertilized by the numerous insects that incessantly hovered about them. The trees did not grow in impenetrable masses of one species, but exhibited themselves in infinite variety. There

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