



Criticism in "Martin Eden" by Jack London

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Abstract: A huge literary asset for literature was the novel "Martin Eden" - the creative pinnacle of Jack London. In Soviet times, domestic critics have repeatedly tried to interpret the novel as a denunciation of the venality of bourgeois society, the victim of which is the advanced, which eventually capitulated. Such criticism is justified, but still too unambiguous and harsh. The reasons that led Martin to a life catastrophe lie deeper, and it is not just a matter of "surrender". After all, Martin did not churn out book after book when publishers were snapping up everything he wrote. He passed away, realizing that his talent had left him forever. The image of the laws of "success" receded 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 truth to the world." 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, introducing him to her vulgar "ideals". In his relationship with Ruth, a conflict of aesthetic beauty and rough life reality is played out, which will affect the future fate of the hero and become an insoluble contradiction of his whole life.

Keywords: 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 the Macmillan Company. The novel is largely autobiographical: Martin Eden and Jack London have many similarities. Both of them came from the lower class of society and achieved great achievements in literature only by their own efforts. Jack London tried many things in his youth; he wrote his works based on his experience as a sailor, factory worker, and laundry company worker. The character 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, overcoming difficulties. This is a novel that describes Jack London's writing journey, with life and authenticity on every page. As in all his works, it is not difficult to determine which part of the author's autobiography he used in this novel. If we do not stick to the details of the work, we can find in it exactly the struggle, humanity and individuality of Jack London.

After seeing Ruth, Martin Eden decides two things for himself: to win the girl's love and to do it through culture. He is a simple sailor from many voyages across the South Seas, but he feels enchanted by Ruth and the world she inhabits.

Martin willingly begins to teach himself through books from the library. Martin Eden is an excellent example of an educational novel. It's not hard to see every stage of his development and his achievements, his joys, the steps he takes to become respected through books.

In the first two decades of the twentieth century, no one's literary success can be equal to the worldwide, almost instantaneous fame that radiated Jack London, probably unexpectedly for himself. And this sweet and painful burden was laid at his feet not at all by a magazine critic, this professional, slow, strict and cowardly sorter of market goods, but by the same sensitive, attentive, albeit demanding and cruel reader, who has long been leading criticism in tow of his capricious, but sensitive hobbies.

Here 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 appearance of his novel *Martin Eden*. This novel is not bad at all, let's say more: it is quite worthy of its powerful author.

The fate of the novel "*Martin Eden*", which, according to some critics, is one of the best novels written by Americans, did not develop in America in the usual way. He was coldly received by the press. According to Irving Stone, after the novel was published in the magazine, publisher Bret had a hard time finding in the reviews a few lines of praise needed to advertise the novel, published as a separate book. "Most critics, including socialist observers, attacked the novel as an apology for individualism and evidence 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 inspired the American with the idea that in the USA the path to a career is open to everyone. But if the strongest and most talented lose the will to live towards the end of the journey, what awaits others? If it was only by chance that Martin became a writer, how can others be successful? London's book was a devastating blow to the legend of American exceptionalism. Not without reason, the American literary critic M. Geismar called the novel one of the most evil books in American literature.

Does Martin Eden himself think that books lighten up life, make it more pleasant and interesting? No. Martin will always be a gruff sailor who likes to talk straight. But culture brings him closer to Ruth, and that was his goal. But a new perspective crosses his path: he discovers that he can write the literature he loves. Stealing time from sleep, working tirelessly for nineteen hours a day, living a miserable life, almost impoverishing himself, he writes his first stories and sends them to the best magazines of the country. Even if you can't get an editor's attention and pile up rejected originals on your desk, don't despair. He thinks that if he succeeds in publishing his works, Ruth will also fall in love with him.

But we do not believe that there is a concept of culture in his actions. It doesn't matter for him to publish, or even to write; the main thing is to make money. If you are not rich, you are nobody. Jack London like his hero was American, which meant he was pragmatic. For this society, money brings happiness, or rather; it is the only thing that brings happiness. The novel is about a small man sitting in front of a typewriter and trying to fight the brutal power of big publishers. In this pragmatic society, you can be the best writer in the world, but if you don't get published and your books are not sold, so you're nobody; not even a writer.

Nobody trusts Martin except himself. Others do not believe that he will find a 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 two-part gluing together with two different characters. The first part is a story about a sailor who decided to win the girl of his dreams, so he educated himself and thought about the career of a writer. Potentially, it should have been a typical "success story». The second

is the story of a talented but unclaimed writer who intellectually greatly surpasses his surroundings.

After all, Ruth and her family never hid their ideals. Let mundane, stupid and boring for the brilliant Eden. The Morse's were too smug and intolerant, but quite honest. Martin died primarily because he was disappointed in what he had spent so much time and effort on.

At the end of the novel, a person is forced to come to the conclusion that everything that a strong personality can achieve ceases to be of value to it as it is achieved. And Rude Morse suddenly turns out to be a bourgeois dummy, and money - 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, London was, of course, right when he remarked that if his hero had been a socialist, he would not have committed suicide. After all, socialism sets itself goals that are obviously unattainable, 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 life, it has an impressive and sad idea. If the novel reflects human suffering through dreams and hopes, the end of the work ends with sadness and depress. One thing is certain that keeps a person in this life are 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 should not forget the hard work that has gone into it.

Because in this way, a person continues to live his life. It is not his fault that the environment around him is not what he expected, just as he could not 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 death of the artist. It lies in the fact that Martin has lost his way to the people - to where he came from and where the roots that feed his talent and characters remain. He has lost his habitat. In addition, the influence of Nietzsche's ideas was strong and destructive: they brought up Martin's painful individualism, from which he was no longer able to free himself.

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

Jack London added "eternal" significance to this problem. After all, his hero is an artist who came from the people, and this phenomenon, which became characteristic only in the 20th century. And the essence of this drama is not exhausted by the fact that poverty awaits Martin and that he will spend all the reserve of creative forces allotted to him before recognition comes to him. Undoubtedly, he could have done more and not have to pay for every step in his art, or he would not have brought into it a completely new life experience and his harsh worldview.

A young artist will never be able to sit as a guest of honour at literary matinees; catching admiring glances on him, and is no longer able, having thrown off the accumulated burden of culture, to descend to his world.

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