



Green Mansions

William Henry Hudson , John Galsworthy (foreword)

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A failed revolutionary attempt drives the hero of Hudson's novel to seek refuge in the primeval forests of south-western Venezuela. There, in the 'green mansion' of the title, Abel encounters the wood-nymph Rima, the last survivor of a mysterious aboriginal race. The love that flowers between them is soon overshadowed by cruelty & sorrow.

One of the acknowledged masters of natural history writing, W. H. Hudson forms an important link between 19th-century Romanticism & the 20th-century ecological movement. First published in 1904 & a best-seller after its reissue a dozen years later, *Green Mansions* offers readers a poignant meditation on the loss of wilderness, the dream of a return to nature & the bitter reality of the encounter between savage & civilized man.

Green Mansions Details

Date : Published 1944 by Random House (NY) (first published 1904)

ISBN :

Author : William Henry Hudson , John Galsworthy (foreword)

Format : Hardcover 315 pages

Genre : Fiction, Classics, Fantasy, Romance, Literature

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From Reader Review *Green Mansions* for online ebook

Pamela says

As I've mentioned numerous times, I really, really like lists. I adore the satisfaction from crossing something off of a list. I hang out on List Challenges because I want to see myself in the top percentile of book readers (yes, I was a competitive student, too). Naturally, I really love those 1,001 books to read lists that are redone every few years. Many years ago (okay, like 10), before sites like List Challenges existed, I copied out all 1,001 books and printed them so I could physically cross out the ones I'd read.

One of the books on the original list was *Green Mansions* by some dude (note: I do not actually refer to authors thusly; I am merely in a Hulkastic mood, hence the flippant delivery) named W. H. Hudson. My local library system didn't have it, so when I was in college, I found it in the stacks there whilst gathering the armloads of French novels I had to read. I read the first page and realized that those French books wouldn't read themselves, so I returned the book.

Green Mansions popped up again on one of those durned lists, and I found it on Project Gutenberg. Thankfully, it's a pretty short book. I believe that is the *only* thing I am thankful for in relation to this book.

I've seen it praised as a celebration of nature, as some sort of proto-environmentalist manifesto.

Nah, it's about this racist Venezuelan guy who falls in love with a way-underage chick in the rainforest. It's kind of a reverse-Tarzan.

Clearly, the beauty of the South American rain forest had a strong impact on Hudson, as the descriptions are quite vivid and lush. They're also exceedingly wordy, but I would chalk that up to the writing style popular at the time of this book's publication.

But the plot made me make faces, the most common of which is the one a person makes after biting into something particularly unappetizing. Like rotten meat, or a wormy apple, or something equally repulsive, like olives. No, I really do hate olives. You may have my lifetime allotment of olives for yourself. You're welcome.

I really don't want to even open up my Kindle to see how many of the pages I bookmarked as being eyeroll-worthy. But I'll do it. In the name of books.

Green Mansions opens with a prologue (which is a strange structural choice, as I'll discuss later) about the author going to see a Mr. Abel in England. This Mr. Abel, although foreign, was liked by everyone (fancy that!) but he had a mysterious past (oooooh!). He arrived in Great Britain from Venezuela, whence he fled due to political disagreements. The author, being one of those naturally nice chappies, gets Mr. Abel, the "nervous olive-skinned Hispano American," to tell his secretive tale.

The odd thing about this opening is that it does a good job of preparing the reader for the story, but one would expect an afterword or epilogue to round everything out, completing the frame story (I always say *histoire encadrée* because we did so many bloody frame stories in French that I cannot help but think of them any other way). But no. The book just ends when Abel's narrative ends. What did "Hudson" think of it? Why was it such a mystery? We don't know.

Anyway, so Mr. Abel tells the story of his youth in Venezuela, being from a rather well-to-do family, but fleeing the country after a failed coup. For rather imponderable reasons, he decides to head southeast and explore the Deep Dark Forest Primeval, which, as we all know, was everyone's favorite metaphor for the "savage" part of humanity. O-kay. We got it.

I don't know anything of Hudson's politics, and I completely understand that the story is narrated from the point of view of a haughty Venezuelan, who saw his mother culture as being far superior to anything that the actual indigenous inhabitants of the land would ever have. Although Abel learned many of the native dialects, he persists in describing the people as "savages." They are "cunning" yet they are also poor liars. What? Anyway. The majority of the offensiveness in this book comes from Abel's continued mistreatment and just plain nastiness toward the native peoples of Venezuela. They are, of course, entranced by this white man who can carve guitars out of trees (I am not making this up) and who carries pistols instead of blowguns.

Here, let me spare you: just imagine 200-odd pages of offhandedly racist comments about tribes of South America. Then pour bleach on your brain. That's it for one issue.

The other is Abel's exceedingly creepy, Humbert Humbert-esque obsession with Rima, the last of a lost tribe of handily pale (and therefore European and acceptably beautiful) people who could talk to animals. She lives in the forest on the other side of the mountain where Abel is staying with a tribe, and he falls madly in love with this child (really, a child) because she's like, ethereal, or something. Hi everyone, meet Rima: the first manic pixie dream girl.

The rest of the book is Abel pining after Rima, trying to get Rima away from her adoptive grandfather, and then making a series of spectacularly stupid decisions that lead to the necessarily tragic ending. And ... that's it. Oh, and he eats a sloth. For that alone, this book gets one star.

I never once felt a sense of wonder for the rainforest as Hudson described it. I did not feel that he wished it to be preserved for humanity; he wished it to be a safe place for whiny, ill-tempered men to go and stomp out their frustrations.

Right now I have an awful sinus headache, which has really been something of a week-long sinus headache, so I just can't find the mental strength to go any further into this book. Yet, I have a feeling I don't really need to.

tl;dr: Really racist guy runs around tropical rainforest, falls in love with young girl, loses his mind. The usual.

Connie says

Abel narrates a story about his mysterious past in the "green mansions" of the Venezuelan rainforest. When he was a young revolutionary, he had to go into hiding in an Indian village in the Parahuari Mountains. He went exploring in a nearby forest where the Indians refused to walk, fearing the presence of an evil spirit, the Daughter of the Didi. She was a half-wild girl named Rima who lived close to nature, hiding while singing with soft warbling sounds. "Again and again as I stood there listening it sounded, now so faint and apparently far off as to be scarcely audible; then all at once it would ring out bright and clear within a few yards of me, as if the shy little thing had suddenly grown bold; but, far or near, the vocalist remained

invisible, and at length the tantalising melody ceased altogether."

This romantic fantasy show the author's love of the natural world of South America. It portrayed an allegorical ideal world where man lives in harmony with nature. Although Hudson's writing is very descriptive and flowery, the book kept my interest because of its imaginative quality. Published in 1904, some parts of the book would be considered offensive by today's standards concerning native people. It mentioned the superiority of the white man even though the native Indians provided help to Abel, and kept him from starving to death many times during the course of his adventures.

Ants says

In my humble opinion, this book is great. True, story, fantasy, or other - the book can be interpreted in many ways. The individual passages are mesmerizing. One chapter take you away so the other chapters are forgotten. Initially, I just happened to stumble upon the book in a used book store somewhere. The used books stores are disappearing, hopefully this review will keep up the interest.

Enjoy.

PS It was just as mystifying in a second read a few years ago.

Lucy says

If you have never heard of the book *Green Mansions* and didn't know it was a classic, you're not alone. Neither did I before I saw it on my library's "We Recommend" table. It certainly looked old and, on a whim, I checked it out. After looking up the title on Amazon.com and Goodreads, I realized it was, indeed, a classic and thought I'd add a lesser known, or forgotten title to my list of twenty. You know, step outside the box. Maybe help shed some light on a great old book.

Well, classics are classics for a reason and there is a reason this book has been forgotten. It's not very good. In fact, I may as well say it. It's bad.

Abel, a member of the aristocratic class of Venezuela, flees to the uncivilized jungles after a failed coup. Because he is able to pick up languages easily, he learns to communicate and eventually live among several different indigenous tribes. Just like any great guest, he spends his time wowing them with his guitar, waits for his meals while he hangs out in his hammock and laughs at their silly traditions. Eventually, driven by boredom, he explores a cursed part of the forest where he eventually meets an unusual girl unlike any one he's ever seen. She seems able to talk to birds and snakes, climbs trees and appears to live all alone in her "green mansion." Most interesting to Abel is the paleness of her white skin, noticeably different from the savages (his words) that inhabit this area. Rima, as she is called by a spanish speaking man who raised her, is the last surviving member of an extinct tribe. How she came to live with him is more complicated than I care to explain, as William Henry Hudson unravels her origins in an excruciatingly slow discovery, but suffice it to say that when Rima and Abel fall in love, it spells doom for both of them.

While there is the romance, which is actually unsatisfying because it follows that melodramatic pattern of 19th century romanticism where there seems to be no passion accompanied with the unexplained devotion, this book is really more about the forest than the girl. Hudson uses most of his words to describe every tree, every vine, and every undergrowth. It becomes ridiculous to think that he is really including these mind-numbing descriptive details in his explanation of his tragic past to his friend.

In addition to the superfluous language, the book is unforgivably racist and outdated. I kept wondering why I was being less forgiving than I was with, say, *A Town Like Alice*, which also exposes its age with its no longer acceptable prejudices. All I can say is that *Alice* at least redeems itself with its other, better qualities. *Green Mansions* doesn't. Its attitude towards the aboriginals of Venezuela, as described by a superior white man, is blatantly offensive. Uncomfortably so.

Skip it. There's really no reason to read this book.

Candi says

Sigh... this is a novel that has lived in my memory as a beloved book from my late teenage years. I first stumbled across this book deep in the stacks of my university library while randomly browsing in order to take a break from proving some tedious, complicated mathematical theorem. Perhaps it was the dullness of the mathematical formulas that in comparison led me to believe this book was truly magical. I became completely obsessed with the book and at the time considered it to be one of the most romantic stories ever written! I read this perhaps three times over the course of the next five years following my first reading, and my opinion did not alter. Then time slipped away, I moved out of town, the book was a precious memory... I eventually forgot about it. Then I joined Goodreads and tried to recall some novels that made an impact on me in my younger days. This one came to mind, but for the life of me I could not recall the title or the author... yes, some 25 years or so had passed, but still... perhaps this should have been a sign to leave well enough alone. I eventually figured it out, and back it went onto my to-read shelf. Needless to say, it did not have the same impact this time around!

The story is narrated by a young man, Abel, who has taken refuge with an Indian tribe in the tropical forests of Venezuela. The tribe fears entering the depths of one part of the jungle; their fear deriving from a superstition regarding the daughter of the "Didi", who they believe wishes them harm. Abel, however, does not harbor any misgivings about the forest, and ventures out to explore. The vivid and beautiful descriptions of the local flora and fauna are the most redeeming qualities of the book, in my opinion. They were captivating and reflect the true love that W.H. Hudson had for the natural world. It is here that Abel then encounters the object of the tribe's superstition – Rima, an ethereal, bird-like girl; her mysterious and enchanting songs will lure Abel farther and farther into the forest. *"... before I had been resting many moments it was broken by a low strain of exquisite bird-melody, wonderfully pure and expressive, unlike any musical sound I had ever heard before. ... its greatest charm was its resemblance to the human voice – a voice purified and brightened to something almost angelic. ... The blood rushed to my heart as I listened; my nerves tingled with a strange new delight, the rapture produced by such music heightened by a sense of mystery."* Rima represents all that is lovely and pure in nature. Abel quickly falls in love with this angelic creature. Rima seems to be the last survivor of some mystical race of people, yet in her isolation she seeks to find more of her kind. She sets out on a journey with the help of Abel and her 'grandfather', Nuflo. This journey becomes likened to a battle between mankind and nature, paralleling man's greed and exploitation with the peace and harmony of the natural world.

On the surface, this is still a decent novel. Unfortunately, perhaps as a product of its time (written in 1904), the racist language is pervasive throughout. In his narration, Abel frequently refers to the South American Indian tribes as 'savages', 'inferior', and of the white man being intellectually superior. I have found that I am not a big fan of Romanticism, having read one or two other works from this period that have seemed too flowery or overwritten. I do enjoy descriptive writing, but this style in particular grates on my nerves a bit. While I was quite fond of Rima, Abel on the other hand was arrogant and rather unlikeable. I do appreciate the fact he exhibited some growth towards the end of the novel, yet this did not manage to ultimately endear him to me. I think this book is a worthwhile read in the sense that it is an excellent reminder about what we as human beings need to consider if we truly desire to protect our natural resources and ensure the longevity of our planet. I can't really wholeheartedly recommend **Green Mansions** any longer; yet for nostalgic purposes, some splendid descriptions of nature, and the vital message contained within, I will rate this one 3 stars.

"The sense of the beautiful is God's best gift to the human soul." – W.H. Hudson

El says

Abel, a wealthy young European, leaves Caracas after a failed political revolution and finds an Indian settlement in the jungles of Venezuela. While wandering the jungle he discovers a bird-like woman, Rima, with whom he ultimately falls in love, and her grandfather, Nuflo. As time passes Abel discovers more of Rima's secrets including her past and her ancestry, all of which put Abel at as much risk as it does Rima and her grandfather.

An interesting and visual location for a Victorian romance (worth specifying written by a man), *Green Mansions* is fantastic as well as romantic. The things Abel has always known and believed are put to question by his adventures in the jungle and this is a classic novel of man vs. man, man vs. nature, etc. While the ending felt rather abrupt and discordant, as a whole the story is wonderful and Hudson's personal experiences living in the jungle and his studies of nature are incorporated into his delicious prose.

Ellen says

I found this book to be slow and sometimes boring, but I really liked the end. I don't want to spoil anything, so I'll just say I like what the main character has learned for himself by the last page.

Laura says

I thought *Green Mansions* was really sweet. It is a very nice story, despite being tragic. It is a "romance of the tropical forest," as Hudson put it. The protagonist, Abel, falls in love with a wood nymph named Rima but their love is brought to an end when it is overtaken by evil and sorrow.

Lisa (Harmonybites) says

I feel ambivalent about this book. I did finish it, and on the whole I'm glad I read it, but I'm not sure I'd say I liked it--it holds on to three stars by its toe nails. It's considered a minor classic, and it was a favorite book of someone I knew in high school. How many classics are loved and read (unassigned) by teenagers? It was a favorite of novelist John Galsworthy as well, who provided the introduction in the Project Gutenberg edition I downloaded--he ranks Hudson with Tolstoy and called him his favorite living author (the book was published in 1904).

The "green mansions" of the title is the Venezuelan Amazon rainforest. And Hudson was not only a respected novelist in his day, but a naturalist--and it shows. His descriptions of the rainforest, his depiction of his heroine Rima, who embodies nature, was the most appealing side of the book. I wouldn't particularly call myself a nature lover--and certainly no environmentalist, but even I wasn't immune to how he painted everything from the canopy of trees to a moth or spider. Lyrical--vivid--it was all that. So was Rima--one of the most original and memorable heroines I've read in literature. She's described as "bird-like" and so mystically in tune with nature she gains her raiment from a spider's silk and can cuddle up to a coral snake with impunity. The area's tribe won't hunt in her domain, which is under her protection--they fear her as something supernatural. That's the good part of the book, and a big reason I kept turning the pages was to read more of Rima and find out what happened to her.

Then there's Abel. Abel is our narrator and hero--and boy, did I ever despise him. I'm far from politically correct--and I can make allowances for the times--remember, this was published in 1904. The problematic racial aspects of *Gone With the Wind* don't keep me from loving the book and film--ditto Kipling. So when I say Abel continually annoyed and repelled me with his attitude toward the indigenous inhabitants (which he called "savages") that says a lot. I'm not sure in the end if this really reflects Hudson's own attitudes or just how he depicted a character--because in the end I found Abel so despicable, so arrogant, I'm not so sure I *am* supposed to be on this side--although I think yes. In the end this is the first person narrator through which all the events are filtered, and he's framed as telling all this to his friend, who is flattering about his character. I can only tell you that if Rima is the reason I kept reading, Abel was the reason I was tempted to stop reading. If you can tolerate the character though, and some admittedly florid writing (1904 remember) as Abel goes into raptures about Rima's beauty--well, especially if you love nature, you might find yourself happy you took the journey.

James says

Green Mansions: a Romance of the Tropical Forest (1904) is an exotic romance by W. H. Hudson (1841-1922) about a traveller to the Guyana jungle of southeastern Venezuela and his encounter with a forest dwelling girl named Rima. Hudson was born in Argentina, son of settlers of U.S. origin.

He spent his youth studying the local flora and fauna and observing both natural and human dramas on what was then a lawless frontier, publishing his ornithological work in Proceedings of the Royal Zoological Society, initially in an English mingled with Spanish idioms. He settled in England during 1869. He produced a series of ornithological studies which helped foster the back-to-nature movement of the 1920s and 1930s. He was a founding member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Hudson wrote more than three dozen books during his life but by far his best known novel is Green Mansions, and his best known non-fiction is a memoir, Far Away and Long Ago (1918).

When I began to reread *Green Mansions* recently I instantly remembered why it impressed me so much. More than most other authors Hudson is able to instill the sense of wonder through his protagonist Abel who, while living by the Orinoco river in Venezuela, is drawn to the forest lands by strange bird-like singing. There he discovers a young girl named Rima and it is her story that takes up much of the remainder of the novel. She is unspoiled and wild like the animals among whom she lives. She knows neither the evil nor guile common to most civilized humans. This gives her supernatural stature in the eyes of the worldly Abel, who falls passionately in love with her.

Hudson based Rima and her lost tribe on persistent rumors about a tribe of white people who lived in the mountains. Temple paintings often showed light-skinned people, and Spanish Conquistadors were at first thought to be gods. I first read this novel when I was in high school and the memory of its' evocative and lyrical prose has lingered over the intervening decades. With qualities of a striking and original sort it has an enchantment; its pages are haunted by an unearthly perception of beauty and a wonderment that stirs the imagination. The story is one of people who are almost in an original state of nature, a romantic, if flawed, view that suggests their world may be better than civilization.

Green Mansions is one of the few novels ever to become an undisputed classic during the author's lifetime. It inspired a statue of Rima that you can find in Kensington Garden, London. It is a book I found to be truly enthralling and full of romantic magic making it a great read.

W.M. Driscoll says

When I was studying Jungian psychology, many years ago, I came across this book which hangs its narrative upon his "night journey" concept (a prevalent theme in books and films including Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*, *Star Wars*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and Oliver Stone's *Platoon*), that of a journey into the self personified by a physical reality, a jungle, desert, cave etc. In this reality lies a shadow figure to be overcome/slain/or fallen to, representative of the hero's unrecognized unconscious, and an anima (for the male) or animus (for the female), a transcendent and creative figure that helps the hero/heroine overcome their personal psyche.

In *Green Mansions* by William Henry Hudson, we see this played out perhaps better than in any other story with the exception of Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. From an era of many lost tribes and hidden jungle haunts (Edgar Rice Burroughs comes instantly to mind), Rima the bird girl (our protagonist's anima) is so strikingly drawn and made such an impression on me as a young writer, that I've used the name in stories of my own.

Don't be put off by all the psycho-babble, *Green Mansions* is a solid entertaining story that will wrap you in its jungle foliage and carry you along to its sad and revealing conclusion. Recommended for all readers.

Claudia says

I read this classic in high school, but got much more out of my recent re-reading. It is so relevant today. Due to all of the current political chaos, it is tempting to withdraw from society, as I have and continue to do so in

books.

A man in South America withdraws from Caracas after a failed political coupe. He indulges his spirit of adventure and goes into the forest and jungles of South America. He comes upon a tribe of natives that distrust and hate a girl (Rima) who loves nature and does not want animals killed. Her "grandfather" (not really related to her) had rescued her and nurtured her in the forest. He was seeking redemption after going on a rampage, pillaging and raping natives with acquaintances in his youth. He rescues Rima's mother who dies shortly after giving birth.

He becomes intrigued by her and her gentle mysterious ways. By trying to get her back to her roots he paves the way to her destruction. With her "grandfather" in tow, they all venture to the area where Rima was born. In their absence, their home is destroyed in the forest. They split up and Rima heads back to their home and is captured and killed. The "grandfather" dies, and the narrator recovers Rima's remains and plans on mixing his ashes with hers when he dies.

Other themes was the vastness of the planet, multiple worlds and the impossibility of really knowing all and seeing all. This is supposedly the cause of Alexander the Great's depression--there would always be more worlds to conquer.

Very relevant today where we distrust those who live and think differently than we do and hence fear them due to a lack of understanding and hate that which we do not understand and ultimately we must destroy

Tammy says

This book definitely has flaws, plot holes and politically incorrect views compared to today, but I was intrigued with it and kept wanting to find out more!

Paula says

I don't even know if I like this book. It has its flaws for sure; still, there's something about it that has stuck with me for years. The vividness of the setting has kept me enraptured. Usually, the setting bores me. I quickly plow through all the description so I can move on to the characters and plot. Not here though; somehow Hudson mingles the characterization and setting so that they are woven into one. I experience the setting of Green Mansion with all my senses. The main character grows right out of it. She is who she is because of where she lives.

Since reading the book, there hasn't been a time when, hiking in the woods, I haven't fantasied I'm Rima. Maybe Green Mansion is deeply flawed--like us--that doesn't mean it isn't powerful or important. Even if I was annoyed by parts of it while reading, it doesn't mean the book hasn't changed me for the better. It has made me aware of a part of myself I didn't know I had. I crave the setting of Green Mansion and have been on a constant vigil to find it in real time. Forget what I said above: I love this book.

🌹Rose?? says

A nice romantic and unusual story set in Victorian era in the forests of Venezuela. Interesting narrative, a bit difficult to get into, however it's worth it if you are patient.

I am actually revising this review. After being done with this book after a few days, I realize that I am still thinking about it and when that happens, I need to re-evaluate my feelings.

I think I finally get this story. This is about nature vs man, Rima is our representation of nature. SHe is everything beautiful, innocent and pure. Her relationships with all around her, including man is how it should be for everyone. However, man's ignorance and greed and corruptability know only how to do one thing well and that's destroy and kill all beauty around them. We see it everyday with logging companies destroying our forests, animals go endangered or extinct due to the man's destruction nature. Our oceans are full of pollutants and we kill for profit daily with corporate machines. This is a story of man told in it's simplest, most heartbreaking way.

Highly recommend.

Judy says

Considered W H Hudson's masterpiece and promoted as an exotic romance, Green Mansions lived up to its reputation. An old man, Mr Abel, tells his tale to a close friend. Mr Abel, a Venezuelan, had become embroiled in a political plot to overthrow his government back when he was an unwise young man of twenty-three. The plot was discovered, forcing him to flee for his life. Consequently he spent some years wandering the jungle and living with savages.

Mr Abel met a mysterious young woman who besides her great beauty, also spoke an unknown language and had a mystical relationship with the flora and fauna of the jungle. Between the bird-girl Rina and Mr Abel, a passionate love grew and though he did everything within his power to bring her happiness, tragedy was the result of their relationship.

The most amazing aspect of the novel is the telling of the story with not one word of dialogue. It is all description: of the jungle, the natives, the bird-girl and her strange "grandfather," and of the states of mind along with the adventures of Mr Abel. Never have I read a novel in this form that was so compelling. It is full of action, emotion, danger, passion, extreme adventure and continuous suspense, as though the reader were also in the jungle and in the mind of Mr Abel.

I became aware of Green Mansions years ago and have had a yellowed used paperback on my shelves for almost two decades. Thanks to one of my reading groups, I have read it at last and understand why it appears on so many reading lists. An investment of \$2.50 and two evenings of reading time brought me more entertainment than I ever expected.

Anna says

This book has a pervasive and oppressive atmosphere of racism, which really bothered me throughout. The

story starts slowly but builds. The most remarkable thing about the book is the growth of the main character Abel (with the exception of his intense racism which he never shakes in the least). In the end although I don't agree with all of the theology the final conclusion of the book is laudable even beautiful.

Mikey B. says

This is definitely an odd story – and original, but not perfect (more on that later).

It is hard to categorize exactly where this work of fiction lies; maybe in the mystical realm. However, towards the end a hard gloomy aspect descends upon the narrative.

The story resolves around a man in his thirties, named Abel, who having to flee urban Venezuela for political reasons, hides in the jungles near the border of Guyana. His life is constantly shifting between that of a small indigenous tribe and a young girl (Rima) and her grandfather who live some distance from the tribe in the interior of the jungle forests.

Rima is a nature girl who, we are lead to believe, lives in complete harmony with the animals and plants of the forests. She serves as an evasive temptress to Abel, who eventually falls “in love” with her. The author has us believe that Rima goes for Abel too, but I found this less convincing.

Eventually Abel leads Rima and her grandfather back to where Rima was born. At this stage the novel enters a very dark phase – (view spoiler)

Some further remarks:

- > The final quarter of the book describing the journey of the three main characters is its strongest feature.
- > Many of the descriptions of the jungle floral and the romantic feelings of Abel and Rima are a flow of words and simply too prolonged.
- > Our narrator, Abel, is a most conceited and ungrateful fellow. He shows no appreciation for all the free nourishment provided to him by both the tribe and Rima's grandfather. His superiority becomes obnoxious.
- > Abel is much older than Rima, who is a young naive teenage girl brought up in isolation. I came to view Abel as a sexual predator. Fortunately, aside from a few stolen kisses, nothing much transpires between the two. Get someone your own age Abel!
- > The repetitive hide-and-seek scenes of Abel and Rima, of Abel and the indigenous tribe were tiresome.

Certainly a unique story, quite unlike any other I have read.

Wreade1872 says

Well that was disappointing. This is a sort of supernatural romance, kinda, maybe preternatural would be

more apt. Anyway its about a man who finds a forest in Guyana said by locals to be haunted. I can't say much more about it without spoiling the story, especially since there is so little plot.

I was really into it at first burning quickly through the first 9 or so chapters. It seemed really compelling, but after a while i realized the reason i was reading so quickly, was because of the thin plot. I felt compelled to read a lot because that was the only way to get any sense of accomplishment story-wise as so little was actually happening.

Overall its well written but far too verbose and i was disappointed with it after a good start.

Also the romance in it became a little uncomfortable for me at times. Modern sci-fi often points out the dubious morality of Kirk's romances in the 70's Star-Trek show and those opinions came into my mind several times during this read.

Joy H. says

Added 4/12/17. (First published in 1904)

FILM: "Green Mansions" (1959)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0052864/?...>

"A young man in the jungles of Venezuela meets a strange girl of the forest and falls in love with her."

Stars: Audrey Hepburn, Anthony Perkins, Lee J. Cobb

I discovered this film on the TCM Channel, 4/12/17.

BELOW IS FROM A GOODREADS MEMBER REVIEW:

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"This is about nature vs man, Rima is our representation of nature. SHe is everything beautiful, innocent and pure. Her relationships with all around her, including man is how it should be for everyone. However, man's ignorance and greed and corruptibility know only how to do one thing well and that's destroy and kill all beauty around them. We see it everyday with logging companies destroying our forests, animals go endangered or extinct due to the man's destruction nature. Our oceans are full of pollutants and we kill for profit daily with corporate machines. This is a story of man told in it's simplest, most heartbreaking way."

FROM: Rose's review at: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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PS-WIKI says: "In 1959, the book was adapted into a movie, also entitled Green Mansions, starring Audrey Hepburn as Rima, with Anthony Perkins as Abel. The film, which was directed by Hepburn's husband, Mel Ferrer, was a critical and box office failure." ... "The **title** may spring from the Bible quote "In my Father's house are many mansions" (John 14:2), implying the pristine forest is a natural and sacred cathedral."

FROM: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_M...
