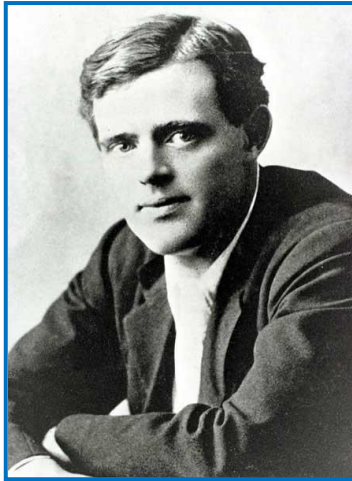


The Story of White Fang

As a high schooler, English literature was always one of my favorite courses, and one of the writers that captivated my attention was Jack London, American author, journalist and social activist.



London paints an incredible picture of savagery and hope in his work *White Fang*, the story of a wolf dog who is an outcast at war with a world where only one law exists: eat or be eaten. “There was no soil for kindness and affection to blossom in,” London wrote. “The code he learned was to obey the strong and oppress the weak.”

The story boldly tells how the love of one man, Weedon Scott, finally overcomes the fear, hatred and abuse of a lifetime. In fact, London dubs Scott the “Love Master” because through love and patience he reaches a well deep within White Fang and forges an unshakable bond of love and trust.

In some ways, this is a projection of London’s own life, although the book had a happier ending than London, who died at an early age of 40 after a life characterized by many hard times. He never knew for certain who his father was. He worked many different jobs, endured time in jail for vagrancy, and saw his fortune evaporate as fast as he made it. Nevertheless, he never gave up hope, and he was always the romantic at heart.

Commentator Dwight V. Swain states, “In *White Fang*, clearly London is arguing that love is a major – if not the major – civilizing force in a world otherwise ruled by club and fang, brutality and blood.”

We must ever be mindful of the power of love, even in today’s world, which is sometimes ruled by “club and fang, brutality and blood.” We can discover ways to be a Weedon Scott in our neighborhoods and communities.

And more than in most professions, we who work in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have daily opportunities to watch the magic of love at work in those we serve and in the people with whom we work.

Like London, we must never give up hope or lose faith in the power of love.

– Beecher Hunter