

ADULT FICTION

PROSE – ENGLISH SCIENCE FICTION

SWA-SF1 United States 2004

THE CAVE GIRL

SW – Science Fiction

Scr: (?) (Based on book by Edgar Rice Burroughs)

Perf: Patrick G. **LAWLOR** (reader)

Prod. Co: Audio Editions; Auburn, CA

Time: (?)

CD: THE CAVE GIRL

Audio Editions (?) (7XCDs)

Notes: An unabridged reading of this caveman-cavewoman tale. Burroughs prose here is a bit stilted and old-fashion.

Washed ashore on an uncharted South Pacific island, a Bostonian blueblood, Waldo Emerson Smith-Jones, sets off into the interior of the jungle. He is chased by cave men up to the topmost ledge of the cliff dwelling caves where the cave girl, Nadara, lives and there manages to fight off the attacking cave men. After retiring alone to a mountain cave where he restores his strength and assembles weapons, he returns to kill the strong men of Nadara's tribe who have been trying to win her by force. Thus Waldo (now known as Thandar – the brave one) becomes king of the cave dwellers and gets them to improve their weapons and life style. But an earthquake destroys the caves and nearly the entire tribe.

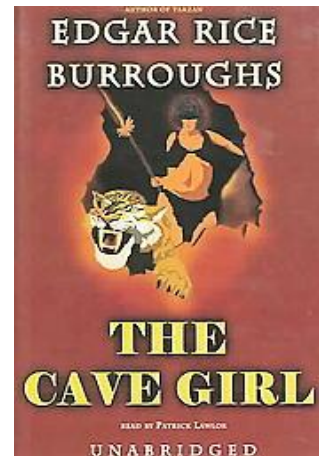
In some ways, this book (by the author of the Tarzan books) set the stage or at best reinforced the stereotype image of the rough and ready, primitive cave man that later resurfaced in the rock 'n' roll caveman songs. The typical lyric about cave men dragging their lover girl off by the hair is found in the dialogue in Part II, Chapter 2, where Thandar (Waldo) is talking with Nadara's stepfather. Thandar asks – "Tell me how men take their wives among you." Nadara's father replies – "If they do not come with us willingly we take them by the hair and drag them with us." (Burroughs 1963, p. 115)

Later in the story after the earthquake Thandar is alone. When he meets a cave man, Roof, he suggests they join forces. The other replies – "But I will be friends with Thandar. We will hunt together and cave together. Roof and Thandar are brothers." The meaning of "cave together" here is clearly "live in a cave together," but for a caver this is certainly an amusing statement in the context.

Shown here is the cover art (for the cassette) loosely based on the Frank Frazetta cover art for one of the Ace Books paperback editions.

Ref: The Cave Girl CD, [audioeditions](http://audioeditions.com)

Burroughs, Edgar Rice 1913 (1963), *The Cave Girl*, Ace Books Inc., New York, 224p.



SWC-SF2 United States 2001

THE UNDERGROUND CITY

SW – Science Fiction

Scr: (?) (Based on book "Les Indes noires" by Jules Verne)

Perf: John **BOLEN** (reader)

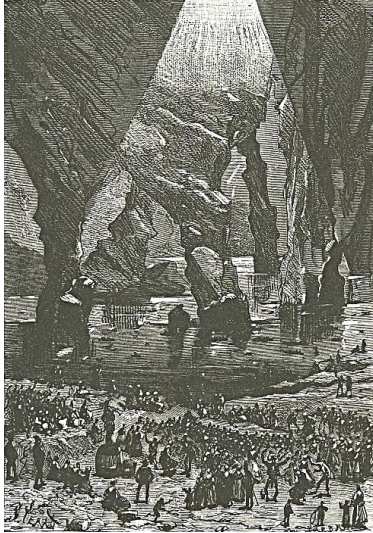
Prod. Co: Tantor Media

Time:

CDs: THE UNDERGROUND CITY

Tantor Media (?) (4XCDs)

Notes: A reading of the unabridged English translation of Jules Verne's lesser-known book, "Les Indes noires." This tale takes place almost entirely



underground in a coalmine at Aberfoyle in Scotland. But this is no ordinary coalmine; the galleries and shafts lead to huge underground spaces, which are entirely natural, all eroded out of coal, a phenomena that could only happen in science fiction.

The English translation does not use the same chapter numbers and some of the original French text is omitted here and there. In the original chapter 8, The mining engineer, James Starr, and the mining foreman, Simon Ford, place dynamite charges at one end of the abandoned mine and break into the extensive coal cave. The original French text will not be provided here.

Chapter 9 (English chapter 7) – "The New Aberfoyle" –

A labyrinth of galleries, some higher than the most lofty cathedrals, others like cloisters, narrow and winding -- these following a horizontal line, those on an incline or running obliquely in all directions -- connected the caverns and allowed free communication between...

But, we repeat, it could be compared to nothing but the celebrated Mammoth caves, which, in an extent of more than twenty miles, contain two hundred and twenty-six avenues, eleven lakes, seven rivers, eight cataracts, thirty-two

unfathomable wells, and fifty-seven domes, some of which are more than four hundred and fifty feet in height. Like these caves, New Aberfoyle was not the work of men, but the work of the Creator.

Chapters 10, 11, 12, and 13 (English chapters 8, 9, & 10) all give additional information about these coal caves. In English chapter 10 – "Coal Town" we are told –

Arrived in Coal Town, the visitor found himself in a place where electricity played a principal part as an agent of heat and light. Although the ventilation shafts were numerous, they were not sufficient to admit much daylight into New Aberfoyle, yet it had abundance of light. This was shed from numbers of electric discs; some suspended from the vaulted roofs, others hanging on the natural pillars--all, whether suns or stars in size, were fed by continuous currents produced from electro-magnetic machines...

Below the dome lay a lake of an extent to be compared to the Dead Sea of the Mammoth caves--a deep lake whose transparent waters swarmed with eyeless fish, and to which the engineer gave the name of Loch Malcolm.

The drawing by J. Férat engraved by Charles Barbant gives an idea of the vastness of this coal cave and shows the villagers of Coal Town dancing on the shores of Loch Malcolm where some daylight filters down from an overhead shaft. This episode, from the end of the original chapter 8, was left out of the English translation.

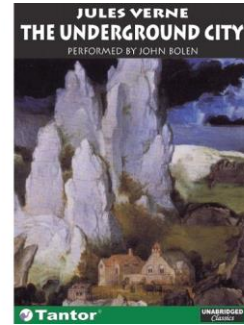
Ref: Nash, Andrew 2004, Collecting Jules Verne Audio Recordings, julesverne.ca

The Underground City, Chapters 1 to 19, (Text of English translation), online-literature

The Underground City, Chapter 7, online-literature

The Underground City, Chapter 10, online-literature

Verne, Jules (1967), *Les indes noires*, Livre de Poche, Paris



caveinspiredmusic.com