



## The Human Drift and Other Stories (Paperback)

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By Jack London

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\*\*\*\*\*. Western writer and historian Dale L. Walker writes:

London's true metier was the short story . London's true genius lay in the short form, 7,500 words and under, where the flood of images in his teeming brain and the innate power of his narrative gift were at once constrained and freed. London's strength of utterance is at its height in his stories, and they are painstakingly well-constructed. To Build a Fire is the best known of all his stories. Set in the harsh Klondike, it recounts the haphazard trek of a new arrival who has ignored an old-timer's warning about the risks of traveling alone. Falling through the ice into a creek in seventy-five-below weather, the unnamed man is keenly aware that survival depends on his untested skills at quickly building a fire to dry his clothes and warm his extremities. After publishing a tame version of this story-with a sunny outcome-in The Youth's Companion in 1902, London offered a second, more severe take on the man's predicament in...

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