



PRESTER JOHN

Prester John

by John Buchan (1875-1940)

This classic adventure novel by the author of *Greenmantle* and *The Thirty-Nine Steps* relates the first-person exploits of young David Crawford before the age of twenty. As a boy growing up on the coast of Scotland, minister's son Davie and two friends are pursued with murderous intent along the cliffs one night by John Laputa, a visiting black African preacher, whom they had witnessed performing un-Christian rites round a campfire on the beach.

A few years later, when his father's death forces Davie to quit college and join the tribe of wandering Scots, our hero finds himself in South Africa, assistant shopkeeper in a seemingly sleepy back-veldt store. There he re-encounters Laputa, now charismatic leader of an incipient native uprising, secretly preaching the incendiary creed of "Africa for the Africans," and proclaiming himself heir to the mantle of Prester John, a legendary 15th-century Christian king of Ethiopia.

Can young Davie possibly penetrate the megalomaniac's mountain stronghold, foil the insurrection, prevent a massacre of white settlers, and make off with the rebels' war-chest of gold and diamonds?

It's going to take some doing – and not a little derring-do!

Total running time: 7:44:54

Read by Grant Hurlock

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
Illustration by Henry Pitz from
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