

# Black Colossus



Excerpt: The Night of Power, when Fate stalked through the corridors of the world like a colossus just risen from an age-old throne of granite--E. Hoffman Price: The Girl From Samarkand Only the age-old silence brooded over the mysterious ruins of Kuthchemes, but Fear was there; Fear quivered in the mind of Shevatas, the thief, driving his breath quick and sharp against his clenched teeth. He stood, the one atom of life amidst the colossal monuments of desolation and decay. Not even a vulture hung like a black dot in the vast blue vault of the sky that the sun glazed with its heat. On every hand rose the grim relics of another, forgotten age: huge broken pillars, thrusting up their jagged pinnacles into the sky; long wavering lines of crumbling walls; fallen cyclopean blocks of stone; shattered images, whose horrific features the corroding winds and dust storms had half erased. From horizon to horizon no sign of life: only the sheer breathtaking sweep of the naked desert, bisected by the wandering line of a long-dry river course; in the midst of that vastness the glimmering fangs of the ruins, the columns standing up like broken masts of sunken ships--all dominated by the towering ivory dome before which Shevatas stood trembling. The base of this dome was a gigantic pedestal of marble rising from what had once been a terraced eminence on the banks of the ancient river. Broad steps led up to a great bronze door in the dome, which rested on its base like the half of some titanic egg. The dome itself was of pure ivory, which shone as if unknown hands kept it polished. Likewise shone the spired gold cap of the pinnacle, and the inscription which sprawled about the curve of the dome in golden hieroglyphics yards long. No man on earth could read those characters, but Shevatas shuddered at the dim conjectures they raised. For he came of a very old race, whose myths ran back to shapes undreamed of by contemporary

tribes. More Reading: In The Conan Stories Series by ADB Publishing (The Original) The Phoenix on the Sword (1932) (The Original) The Scarlet Citadel (1933) (The Original) The Tower of the Elephant (1933) (The Original) Black Colossus (1933) (This Book) (The Original) The Slithering Shadow (1933) (The Original) The Pool of the Black One (1933) (The Original) Gods of the North (1934) (The Original) Rogues in the House (1934) (The Original) Shadows in the Moonlight (1934) (The Original) Queen of the Black Coast (1934) (The Original) The Devil in Iron (1934) (The Original) The People of the Black Circle (1934) (The Original) A Witch Shall be Born (1934) (The Original) Jewels of Gwahlur (1935) (The Original) Beyond the Black River (1935) (The Original) Shadows in Zamboula (1935) (The Original) Red Nails (1936) (The Original) The Hour of the Dragon (novel) (1936) (The Original) The Hyborian Age (1938)

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