

Rudyard Kipling

**An Almanac of Twelve  
Sports**



**Rudyard Kipling**  
**An Almanac of Twelve Sports**

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*An Almanac of Twelve Sports:*

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# Rudyard Kipling

## An Almanac of Twelve Sports

1898

### January

|                  |   |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| <i>Monday</i>    |   | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   |   | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | —  |
| <i>Wednesday</i> |   | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | —  |
| <i>Thursday</i>  |   | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | —  |
| <i>Friday</i>    |   | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | —  |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | —  |

# February

|                  |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| <i>Monday</i>    |   | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | —  |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | —  |
| <i>Thursday</i>  | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | —  |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | —  |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | —  |

# March

|                  |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| <i>Monday</i>    |   | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| <i>Thursday</i>  | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | —  |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | —  |

# April

|                  |   |   |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|---|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |
| <i>Monday</i>    |   | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   |   | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| <i>Wednesday</i> |   | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| <i>Thursday</i>  |   | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |



# May

|                  |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| <i>Monday</i>    | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | —  |
| <i>Thursday</i>  | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | —  |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | —  |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | —  |

# June

|                  |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 5  | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| <i>Monday</i>    |   | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   |   | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| <i>Thursday</i>  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | —  |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | —  |

Here is a horse to tame —  
Here is a gun to handle —  
God knows you can enter the game  
If you'll only pay for the same,  
And the price of the game is a candle —  
One single flickering candle!

# 1898

## July

|                  |   |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| <i>Monday</i>    |   | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | —  |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   |   | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | —  |
| <i>Wednesday</i> |   | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | —  |
| <i>Thursday</i>  |   | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | —  |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | —  |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | —  |

# August

|                  |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| <i>Monday</i>    | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| <i>Thursday</i>  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | —  |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | —  |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | —  |

# September

|                  |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 4  | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| <i>Monday</i>    |   | 5  | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   |   | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| <i>Wednesday</i> |   | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| <i>Thursday</i>  | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 3 | 10 | 17 | 23 | —  |

# October

|                  |   |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| <i>Monday</i>    |   | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   |   | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | —  |
| <i>Wednesday</i> |   | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | —  |
| <i>Thursday</i>  |   | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | —  |
| <i>Friday</i>    |   | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | —  |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | —  |

# November

|                  |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| <i>Monday</i>    |   | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| <i>Thursday</i>  | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | —  |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | —  |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | —  |

# December

|                  |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Sunday</i>    |   | 4  | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| <i>Monday</i>    |   | 5  | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   |   | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| <i>Wednesday</i> |   | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| <i>Thursday</i>  | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |



# Hunting

Certes it is a noble sport  
And men have quitted selle and swum for't,  
But I am of a meeker sort  
And I prefer Surtees in comfort.

Reach down my "Handley Cross" again.  
My run, where never danger lurks, is  
With Jorrocks and his deathless train  
Pigg, Binjimin and Arterxerxes!

January.

# Coursing

Most men harry the world for fun —  
Each man seeks it a different way  
But "of all daft devils under the sun  
A grey'ound's the daftest" said Jorrocks J.

February.

# Racing

The horse is ridden – the jockey rides —  
The backers back – the owners own  
But ... there are lots of things besides,  
And I should leave this play alone.

March.

# Boating

The Pope of Rome he could not win  
From pleasant meat and pleasant sin  
These who, in honour's hope, endure  
Lean days and lives enforced pure.  
These who, replying not, submit  
Unto the curses of the Pit  
Which he that rides (O greater shame!)  
Flings forth by number not by name...  
Could Triple Crown or Jesuit's oath  
Do what yon shuffle-stocking doth?

April.

# Fishing

Behold a parable! *A* fished for *B*.

*C* took her bait; her heart was set on *D*.

Thank Heaven, who cooled your blood and cramped your wishes,

Men and not Gods torment you, little fishes.

May.

# Cricket

Thank God who made the British Isles  
And taught me how to play,  
I do not worship crocodiles  
Or bow the knee to clay!

Give me a willow wand and I,  
With hide and cork and twine,  
From century to century  
Will gambol round my Shrine.

June.

# Archery

The child of the Nineties considers with laughter  
The maid whom his Sire in the sixties ran after,  
While careering himself in pursuit of a girl whom  
The Twenties will dub a "last century heir-loom."

July.

# Coaching

The Pious Horse to church may trot.  
A maid may work a man's salvation.  
Four horses and a girl are not,  
However, aids to reformation.

August.



# Shooting

"Peace upon Earth, Goodwill to men!"  
So greet we Christmas Day.  
Oh Christian load your gun and then,  
O Christian, out and slay!

September.

# Golf

Why Golf is Art and Art is Golf  
we have not far to seek —  
So much depends upon the lie,  
so much upon the cleek.

October.

# Boxing

Read here the Moral roundly writ  
For him that into battle goes —  
Each soul that, hitting hard and hit,  
Encounters gross or ghostly foes: —  
Prince, blown by many overthrows  
Half blind with shame, half choked with dirt  
*Man cannot tell but Allah knows*  
*How much the other side was hurt!*

November.

# Skating

Over the ice she flies  
Perfect and poised and fair —  
Stars in my true-love's eyes  
Teach me to do and to dare!

Now will I fly as she flies ...  
Woe for the stars that misled!  
Stars that I saw in her eyes  
Now do I see in my head!

December.

Now we must come away.  
What are you out of pocket?  
'Sorry to spoil your play,  
But Somebody says we must pay —  
And the candle's down to the socket —  
Its horrible tallowy socket!