



# Claws

*Archibald Rutledge*

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## **Claws** Archibald Rutledge

Unseen by readers for a century, Archibald Rutledge's story "Claws" is a fast-paced adventure tale of a young boy, Paul, lost in the foreboding terrain of Spencer's Swamp, the domain of the mighty bobcat Claws, which is deftly evading hounds and hunters alike. When Paul and Claws encounter one another at a perilous creek crossing, Rutledge's mastery of outdoors storytelling shines through in every evocative word.

The short story "Claws" was written for publication in an early twentieth-century boy's magazine and was first collected in the privately printed Eddy Press edition of *Old Plantation Days* (c. 1913). Limited to just a few hundred copies, the Eddy Press edition is highly prized by Rutledge collectors and includes five stories--"Claws," "The Doom of Ravenswood," "The Egret's Plumes," "The Heart of Regal," and "The Ocean's Menace"--not found in the more widely available 1921 Stokes edition of *Old Plantation Days*.

A project of the Humanities Council SC benefiting the South Carolina Book Festival, this new edition of *Claws* is illustrated in handsome charcoal etchings by Southern artist Stephen Chesley. Award-winning outdoors writer and noted Rutledge scholar Jim Casada provides the volume's introduction and retired South Carolina conservation officer Ben McC. Moïse offers an afterword.

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