



The Lonestar Ranger

Zane Grey

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“It would come back--that wind of flame, that madness to forget, that driving, relentless instinct for blood. It would come back with those pale, drifting, haunting faces and the accusing fading eyes, but all [Duane's] life, always between them and him, rendering them powerless, would be the faith and love and beauty of this noble woman.” ? *Zane Grey, The Lonestar Ranger*

Set in the Texas scrublands of the 1870s, *The Lonestar Ranger* by Zane Grey is a true western romance. When a young man is exiled to the wilderness, will he find a chance to redeem his name?

The Lonestar Ranger Details

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From Reader Review The Lonestar Ranger for online ebook

carl theaker says

During a recent visit to the Texas State Cemetery I viewed the Prayer of the Texas Rangers and several of their graves, one of which was of Captain John Hughes. A little investigation revealed that Zane Grey based 'Lone Star Ranger' on Hughes, and indeed when I picked up a copy, there is a dedication from Grey to Hughes and the Rangers.

No, I didn't expect an accurate historical biography. I did get a good ol' wild west shootem up, with purple prose passages describing the Texas country side, a true, though wronged hero, Buck Duane, a good horse, opponents in the most outlawy of outlaws, and a feel of how news, well rumors of news, and reputations traveled about the West.

As it was written in 1915, I knew movies based their cowboy heroes on books like this, but you could easily swear it was the other way around as it reads so much like the old westerns of Hollywood. In other words, yes corny at times, occasional plot devices that come out of no where, but the action keeps coming, and you wonder just how is Buck going to get out of this fix?

By time I was done reading, I found myself occasionally checking my imaginary holster on my hip, what would be the fastest way to draw? Would I be quicker than the remorseless, steely eyed Poggin ? And thinking about watching the western movie 'Unforgiven' again.

John says

Zane Grey, without a doubt, makes the western genre come to life. Regardless of his lack of realism in many cases (i.e. can anyone really shoot a six shooter that accurately and swiftly?, can a horse really take that much punishment?, etc), many of his scenes will be long remembered after the reader has finished the book. As an example, and without revealing too much of the book, the event of Buck hiding out in the willows, was one the reader won't soon forget. If nothing else, Mr. Grey's books are hard to put down, and every time they are picked up, it is a joy to read them and forget about the hectic pace of today for awhile.

It is also refreshing to read about a character that is a true hero and not one of today's anti-heroes. I love reading the statement, "Duane had intelligence and keenness enough to see his peril - the danger threatening his character as a man, just as much as that which threatened his life. He cared vastly more, he discovered, for what he considered honor and integrity than he did for life." Oh take me back to the wild west of

yesteryear, with a good horse and the open sky!

larry brashear says

Wonderful!

Zane Grey is a great author! His books contain all the emotions of the human psyche. I love them also because they have good grammar and editing as well. It is so refreshing to read books which are not cheapened by profanity.

Michele says

Dear ladies,

When a cowboy says this, he is trying to say that you are one good lookin' lady:

"She looked tired, quiet, even melancholy. A finely chiseled oval face; clear, olive-tinted skin, long eyes set wide apart and black as coal, beautiful to look into; a slender straight nose that had something nervous and delicate about it which made Duane think of a thoroughbred;" page 223

Yep, why are you wasting your money on Estee Lauder when you just need a nervous nose that makes you look like a horse?

Although I sometimes felt like the writing was switching gears and a bit all over the place, the nobleness of Buck Duane really drew me in and I found the ending very suspenseful. I loved how he was just a tough guy but yet wouldn't hurt a lady, stood up for them and still was able to fall in love. (Sigh, a real manly man.) If we met in real life we would be instant friends.

One last thing: The utter absence of foul language. You still got the idea that people swore but I loved how he didn't use the swear words but you still got the picture. So appreciative.

Martin Gibbs says

Curse me for reading Riders of the Purple Sage first. While this book is a fine output by Zane Grey, it is by no means his best. However, that does not mean it is not a worthwhile read. Grey's books are far deeper and have more psychological and emotional impact than other Western authors; here we have an outlaw/bandit who is not a shallow, one-sided criminal. Rather, Buck Duane is a human being, and human beings settled the west. The transformation of Duane from outlaw to Ranger was well-written.

Of course there is a love interest. It's been said that ZG's books are romances dressed as westerns, but I go back to my first assessment, and state it differently: They are books about the human condition in an era that shaped much of what our country is today. And so, with the lurid descriptions of the landscape, we are treated to detailed and in-depth examination of the creatures that crawled across that land.

This book is missing some oomph, in my opinion. When Duane was listening to the outlaws, I had thought perhaps they heard/saw him, and that we'd have some sort of twist or betrayal or something. Not that the ending was bad, it's just my jaded 21st-century mind expected a few dirty tricks.

Recommended.

Harry Fox says

Strange that the blurb for the book says that this is Zane Grey's only western written from a first-person perspective. It is not. I wonder if the blurb is for the wrong book.

Anyway, this is about Buck Duane, a basically good young man, who is forced into a gunfight and feels sure he has to run or face a noose.

He is a complicated character, a bit of a rare thing for a hero of the Western genre. He feels a strange impulse to violence, but tries hard to NOT fall into the pit of crime as he mingles with the dregs of society on the western Texas frontier. He mostly succeeds, killing only when necessary.

There is a love interest. He first falls for a young girl, whom he rescues, only to have her kidnapped. He never sees her again. Strange, that. I kept expecting to meet her again, but she appears and then disappears like a wisp of smoke.

He later falls for the bandit chief's daughter, Ray. This is a love affair that grows slowly and credibly. Nice touch of romance to go with all the gun-slinging.

Overall, I liked the book. It was heavy on narrative and what could be called purple prose. Zane caught the mood of the frontier pretty well, even though things dragged at times. The ending was entirely forgettable. Won't give any spoilers, but Zane fumbled the ball badly at the very last.

Diane F Martin says

Lone Star Ranger: Standard Zane Grey

Anyone that enjoys a strong western novel will enjoy this title. A strong, introspective man's man who endures life-directing trials in his youth, then finds a direction to reclaim dignity later in his life. The strong characters in this story provide an interesting read. It was a fun adventure.

Violet says

Another great story by the number one old western writer (in my opinion). Zane Grey always managed to write about the cowboys and crooks of the west but didn't neglect inserting a bit of romance ... intriguing to me at the age of 12 or 13 when I first read his books. Today, at the age of 88 I still really like his books, except that the amount of description, I think, is kind of a drag; maybe I am just a slower reader now. At any rate, I did enjoy this story about Buck Duane, outlaw, and then Texas Ranger, and it had a good ending.

Tom Stevenson says

classic Zane Grey with a couple twists. Good guy becomes "bad guy" becomes good guy. Gotta love a good ol' Western.

Thom Swennes says

Zane Grey's Lone Star Ranger has only rated two stars from me. This isn't very common as I tend to like and highly rate almost everything I read. This book was published in 1915 when Grey was already an established writer of ever increasing repute. I found the story naïve in conception and full of spurious assumptions and bogus facts. One example of this is Duane's hasty assumption that he would be hunted down as a criminal and desperate outlaw after killing a man in a witnessed gun fight. This story takes place in post war Texas (1870's) where life was often dictated by violence and the six shooter. His life as an outlaw takes him west but for some unexplained reason he refuses to leave Texas. Halfway through the novel he is offered a deal and becomes a Texas Ranger and uses his many talents to apprehend cattle rustlers and outlaws in general around the El Paso/ Big Bend area. As in most of his stories, women and love are a major part. The naïve approach and immature descriptions and exchanges between the sexes often brought a smile to my lips or a laugh to my voice. The overall impression, however, is one of disbelief, skepticism and cynicism. I generally pass over faults and do my utmost to look for and enjoy any story. The blatant and manifest errors in this spoof proved too much to overlook. Anyone that is considering reading this book should keep in mind that I consider it one of the lesser works of an otherwise good author.

Julia says

[and we never heard what happened to the first young woman he helped out of a difficult situation, though I kept waiting, and assumed she would be the love interest. (hide spoiler)]

Charles Castell says

I have had the opportunity to read many books by Mr. Zane Grey, but I believe this one is probably the best I have read. The story is believable.

Well deserving of the five stars I awarded the story, as the story touches even the hardest hearts. The storylines and characters depicts the real old west and there is enough exiting escapades to fill the needs of any reader.

I have always enjoyed stories of the Texas Rangers and their accomplishments, this story is so in depth that my attention never varied throughout the entire book. There is adventure, a great love story and plenty of shootouts to satisfy the desire of anyone.

I sincerely recommend this book to all of you lovers of great Western excitement, as well as romance, and the storylines and characters will fill your greatest desire.

Breon Blair says

I think that this book catches the eyes of many young gals as well as older women. I love the way the author expressed the love and feelings for the characters towards each other and that it will affect them in the long run but that he placed his book very well and i cant say anything bad about it except for the fact that it had to

end. That was just such a tragedy that i had to read this book over a second time. I love it and I am reading it again and I think that it is just as great as it was the first time. And, this is coming from a fifteen year old freshmen in high school and i love to read.

Andrea says

Buck Duane's transformation is described as he goes from a kid to an outlaw to a redeemed man. The gunfights, the action, the motives are all superbly described. While there may not be outlaws of the same brand today, there are men who are ruled by the same motives and haunted by the same deeds. It was interesting that the author was able to delineate between shades of gray in men who have committed crimes. This gives the reader the ability vicariously to ponder the humanity in all men as only God can see. In the end the author posits that the only power strong enough to fight the blood-lust is love. You'll have to decide if he's right. In the meantime enjoy the ride.

Jim says

This isn't cassettes, but a downloadable audio book from Recorded Books via my library & listened to on my MP3 player. Ed Sala is the narrator & at first I didn't think I was going to like his voice. It's kind of scratchy, old & often drops too low, but it really fits the story, except for when he tries to do the female voices. Luckily, there are very few. Seriously, he's awful at them.

I pretty much quit reading most formulaic westerns years ago. They were cliches run rampant with plots laid out in the first few paragraphs. Grey is the reason. He was one of the first authors to become a millionaire & molded many of the violent, romantic myths of the old west. His success launched a host of imitators, many of whom used his version of the west as their own. So, I wasn't expecting a fresh western from Grey. After all, he first published this novel in 1914. He's old school & the last time I tried reading one of his novels, I wasn't too thrilled.

What really surprises & delights me about this story is just how well the cliched young, quick-draw, gone-down-the-wrong-road-but-good-at-heart-anyway kid is drawn. After looking at the back end of those cliches all these years, seeing it from the front end is surprisingly refreshing. How can that be? I don't really know, just that it is. I think part of that comes from the laconic, gravelly drawl of Sala, but no reader can make a poorly written story into a delight. There's an economy & down-home fun to Grey's prose that just makes it fun to listen to.

The story started out well for the first 9 chapters when I wrote the above. Chapter 10 suddenly bogs down with a loooong description of our hero's mental state. It was incredibly verbose & boring, pounding the same ideas into me until I was ready to surrender. Then the pace picked up & was good again for next 4 chapters until we reach the end of book 1. Unfortunately, there was some time travel going on. We skipped ahead a few years & then looked back, completely out of keeping with the story to this point, which had all been in the present tense. I'll give it 3 stars.

Chapter 15 is a new book & chapter in Buck's life & it breaks much of the previous mood. It starts out quite refreshingly, totally expected, but not terrible. I was glad to see the book get back on track & listened through chapter 16 with delight. Chapter 17 started out with a lot of promise & then suddenly the **book becomes a complete train wreck**. Stupid, gaping plot holes, horrible dialog, & so much less that it is not worth listening to, although I did. At the end, there is one slight, redeeming moment, (view spoiler) but it

was too little, too late, & really didn't help at all. One star rating.

All in all, it wasn't a complete waste of time. I may listen to Riders of the Purple Sage, one of his most famous books at some point, but I'll need some recovery time.
