



# The Which Way Tree

*Elizabeth Crook*

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**The poignant odyssey of a tenacious young girl who braves the dangers of the Texas frontier to avenge her mother's death**

"When I began to read this book its unique voice appealed to me immediately. Elizabeth Crook has written a beautiful novel with wonderful characters." --Robert Duvall

"A small-scale masterwork, richly detailed and beautifully rendered." --S. C. Gwynne, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Empire of the Summer Moon*

Early one morning in the remote hill country of Texas, a panther savagely attacks a family of homesteaders, mauling a young girl named Samantha and killing her mother, whose final act is to save her daughter's life. Samantha and her half brother, Benjamin, survive, but she is left traumatized, her face horribly scarred.

Narrated in Benjamin's beguilingly plainspoken voice, *The Which Way Tree* is the story of Samantha's unshakeable resolve to stalk and kill the infamous panther, rumored across the Rio Grande to be a demon, and avenge her mother's death. In their quest she and Benjamin, now orphaned, enlist a charismatic Tejano outlaw and a haunted, compassionate preacher with an aging but relentless tracking dog. As the members of this unlikely posse hunt the panther, they are in turn pursued by a hapless but sadistic Confederate soldier with troubled family ties to the preacher and a score to settle.

In the tradition of the great pursuit narratives, *The Which Way Tree* is a breathtaking saga of one steadfast girl's revenge against an implacable and unknowable beast. Yet with the comedic undertones of Benjamin's storytelling, it is also a timeless tale full of warmth and humor, and a testament to the enduring love that carries a sister and brother through a perilous adventure with all the dimensions of a legend.

## The Which Way Tree Details

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Author : Elizabeth Crook

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## From Reader Review The Which Way Tree for online ebook

### **Karen says**

I received this from netgalley.com in exchange for a review.

Ben and his half-sister Sam are orphans. Sam is doggedly determined to find the panther that killed her mother and scarred Sam.

Ben tells the tale in a series of letters which keeps this story moving forward although it did lag in places.

3.25?

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### **Paul Falk says**

Elizabeth Crook spoke to me in a mid 19th century Texas drawl. So earthly, I could taste it. The Civil War era was one of my favorite times in American history. Life was different back then. Long before many of the modern conveniences we've grown accustomed to. I suppose that's what folks will be saying when they look back to the 21st century. The author delivered a rousing, well-written narrative in this character-driven storyline. I couldn't help but get tangled up with the main characters. There was just no getting out of their way. Suited me fine. The action was set on one long slow fuse. Burned with anticipation of a big bang. I was not disappointed.

Just a few years before the start of the brutal Civil War, in the back hills of Texas, Samantha Shreve, age six was viciously mauled by a panther. Her mother had valiantly come to her rescue only to suffer mortal wounds in the melee. Though Samantha survived, her face was left a mask of horror. Older brother Benjamin, age eight, could offer little help in fending off the enraged big cat. That guilt weighed heavily upon his shoulders. Samantha always talked and dreamed about exacting her revenge on that four-legged scourge of the West. That's all she lived for. Waiting for the showdown to come. It would. Woman against Panther. Only one would survive.

My thanks to NetGalley and Little, Brown and Company for this ARC in exchange for an unbiased review.

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### **Lolly K Dandeneau says**

via my blog: <https://bookstalkerblog.wordpress.com/>

'The fact that she was so hard on me and on Samantha makes it all the more curious the way she laid her life down, in such a bloody fashion, in defense of Samantha the day a panther came calling.'

I usually don't read a lot of novels set in the Civil War era but this story is written in such a way that the reader feels they've traveled back in time. The language feels authentic, I marvel at authors with the ability to place the proper drawl in their writing. The mother of Benjamin died after his birth, in the hard scrabble existence of the times, his father needed a woman so he found a mate in Juda, a 'borrowed' black woman whom he decided to love or keep, depending how you look at the situation. She birthed a daughter, his half-sister Sam. Mean to the bone, she fast showed young Benjamin who was boss of the house, but the meanness was born of hardness she must have experienced, as one night when she disrobed to show Ben he has already

been beat in 'leaving his mark on her flesh'. She certainly doesn't take kindly to threats, especially from young boys. When a panther comes calling, she sacrifices herself to save her daughter Sam, but the panther can't be bested by Juda's grit. The attack on Sam can't be stopped, leaving her face ravaged. A taste for vengeance is born in her, as her mother is dragged off by the big cat. It's too late by the time their father returns to save Juda.

Through letters to a judge, Jim is testifying about the deaths of prisoners one Clarence Hanlin may have a part in, but this becomes for the reader the story itself. "For six years, Sam had been waiting in a way that was eager. It seemed sometimes that all she did was wait, and watch for that panther." Her obsession among other hardships they face force them to venture out after their father dies. They interfere with a Secesh named Hanlin, saving one Lorenzo Pacheco (the Mexican). Taking a finger off with a hell of a shot, they discover that Hanlin's uncle, Preacher Dob owns a dog that is a great tracker of... panthers. Hanlin is a bad seed, as the preacher is fast to remind with stories of his childhood deeds. The dog decides to help the children hence, the preacher joins them on their journey. Things don't pan out as Hanlin thought they would, he wants his money, and he will stalk them as they stalk the devil panther and get his horse back too!

Life is more than hardscrabble, in fact Sam has grown to be as hard as her own mother was, minus the work ethics. She isn't the most likable person, but if you explore what you learn about her, it's hard to imagine her any other way. A face wrecked by a wild animal that killed her mother, her mother was 'given' to her father so there is her mixed race to contend with, the environment, the hardscrabble existence, what's to be so dang happy about anyway? Ben, where does Ben get his light? He doesn't seem to carry the same poison inside of him his wounded, angry half-sister does. He too lost his mother, though he never knew her. The only touch of a mother he ever knew had been through Juda, and based on the prologue we know she was mean to the marrow of her bones yet somehow manages to maintain a natural peace. By simply writing his letters, he encounters everything from rattlesnakes, to back-breaking work, hunger, not to mention the hassle of his spitfire sister who can't seem to be bothered, to the point even Sam's mare would be happy to see her elsewhere. It's simply the state of his life, not one he complains about. He charms the judge through their correspondence, and receives help without ever asking for it. Sam is a different story entirely, and she makes her own ending, one Benjamin hears much later.

Do they kill the panther, avenging Juda's death? Can they survive the threat of the Secesh, the Comanches, and all the hard luck things that befall them? Will the truth of just how bad Clarence Hanlin is ever be proven? You have to read.

I don't usually read western novels, but I wanted a break from my usual reads. I wasn't disappointed.

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Little, Brown and Company

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## **Tami says**

I loved this book! Author Elizabeth Crook presents some interesting characters and great storytelling through the eyes of young Benjamin Shreve, a seventeen year old orphan who is living on his own with his younger sister.

Set in the Texas hill country immediately following the war between the states, Benjamin and his sister Samantha experience a traumatizing event involving a panther. They soon learn the panther is widely known throughout the area and even has a bounty on his head. Samantha becomes obsessed with getting revenge on the panther, to the point where she disregards safety for herself and others.

Through a series of Benjamin's letters to a circuit judge concerning an unlawful hanging, readers learn the story of Benjamin's family and what happened when the panther crossed their path. As Benjamin writes these letters, it is evident that he is growing into an upstanding young man. His letters have a wonderful voice and give life to the other characters in the book.

I enjoyed the unlikely group of panther hunters--a Tejano cowboy, a humble preacher with a past, a panther-tracking dog named Zechariah, Benjamin and Samantha. And of course, no western is complete without a villain. Benjamin is so eloquent in describing Clarence Hanlin, an unsavory Confederate soldier who is one of the men responsible for the unlawful hanging that occurred.

This one is going on my list of favorites and I can recommend it to anyone who loves westerns, historical fiction or just wonderful storytelling, no matter what the setting.

Many thanks to NetGalley and Little Brown & Company for allowing me a copy to read and give my honest review.

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### **Frosty61 says**

I liked the time period and the setting - a nice change (not WWII!) - as well as the letter format. It was a little longer than it needed to be, but it still held my interest. The author creates a great picture of the Texas frontier in the 1860's, with rich description and dialogue that sounds true to the time/place. The main narrator, Benjamin, comes alive through his letters to a judge about his life with his firecracker sister, Sam, who is bent on killing a panther that disfigured her and killed her mother. There's humor, adventure, violence and a lot of heart as we follow the two of them on the quest for revenge. One issue that bothered me: no quotation marks, but it seems to fit with the limited education of Benjamin. I was a little disappointed in the vague ending, but perhaps that lends some realism to the tale.

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### **Linda says**

"The question come to us then as to whether we was tracking the panther or if, by some unknown hand we was dealt, the panther might be tracking us."

Tragedy strikes with the weight of a mighty calling card. It doesn't strut with a selective swagger. For it leans in on the rich and the poor and everyone in between. And like a slammin' door, you know it's paid you a visit.

The Civil War years have formed a blockade landscape around the Hill Country in central Texas. Everyone scratches out an existence to merely stay alive. And that includes a ferocious panther that steps silently onto the Shreve homestead late one night eyeing the goats and chickens in the pen. Little did he know that young Samantha would be rushing out-of-doors there in the moonlight having charged out of the cabin in anger. Juda, her mother, recognizes the howls of that grewsome panther as it attacks her daughter. Armed with a short hatchet, Juda is no match for those jaws. Benjamin, Samantha's half-brother, can only stand on the

porch in helpless agony. Their father is miles away near Camp Verde.

The remaining scars on Samantha's face will tell that story every day of her life. But the scars from within are a driving force that constantly propel her forward in vengeance. She is keen on tracking down the panther with or without her brother's help. Samantha can almost feel the huge pelt of the animal across the worn boards of the cabin's floor. It will be a heavy price to pay in order to honor her mother, Juda. And that powerful momentum will drive this storyline like the wick of lit dynamite.

Elizabeth Crook breathes life into her main character, Benjamin, as his country-tinged voice re-tells this adventurous story through letters to Judge Carlton presiding in the county of Bandera. Benjamin had previously witnessed a horrendous crime committed by a wanted outlaw. It is this particular crime that gives legs to the panther episode as we experience the individual drives of both Benjamin and his sister, Samantha. Crook weaves tightly drawn threads as she introduces us to others who will perform exceedingly throughout the story: A Tejano outlaw with a remarkable pinto, a stalwart old minister, and a dog with the envy of every cat's nine lives.

Crook is a masterful storyteller in *The Which Way Tree*. She has an uncanny ability to wrap the storyline around you in a deep sense of time and place and dabbles in little inserts of laugh-out-loud humor. I'm from the Hill Country and Crook has incorporated the notches of the near and the far here. Although a rooted story of vengeance, *The Which Way Tree* also seeps into you as a source of forgiveness and hope. Colorful characters, historically befitting anecdotes, and the magnetic draw of the human spirit make *The Which Way Tree* an exceptional read.

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## **Diane S ? says**

Civil War era, Texas, the hill country where a panther attacks a homesteading family. The young daughter is severely injured, will wear the marks of the panther on her face, her mother killed trying to defend her daughter. Eventually Benjamin and his half sister Sam, will only have each other. Sam, vows to hunt down and kill the panther, and so the tale begins. A few others will join the group, including Zachary, a panther hunting dog.

A judge is looking into the hanging deaths of three men found on the trail. Benjamin knows exactly who killed these men, and using materials the judge has given him sets out to tell his tale. So the story is told in a series of letters to the judge. Benjamin is a wonderful story teller, his writing engaging and humorous. This could be a tale told and passed on by cowboys in the old West, sitting around a campfire. Many times their trek to capture and kill the panther stretches credibility, but it is so well told, put together like a comedy of errors. Things happen, the group encounters tough conditions, serious mishaps, but the brother, sister bond is strong despite everything. Benjamin loves to talk, and his account is thorough, he seems to believe that every detail must be noted.

Despite the harsh conditions, the friendship between the group grows in wonderful ways. I enjoyed this account of Benjamin's very much. Such a humorous story, but adequately enveloping the times. At book's end we pick up fifty years or so later, and we find out what happened to this group in the intervening years. A very well done yarn of a story.

ARC from Netgalley.

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## **(Lonestarlibrarian) Keddy Ann Outlaw says**

Set in the time during and right after the Civil War, *THE WHICH WAY TREE* immediately engages the reader with the voice of Texan Benjamin Shreve, 17 years old as we begin the novel, but younger in the tale he tells us. Let me correct myself—his purpose in sharing his tale is to provide testimony to a judge. A murder trial has begun, but the circuit judge is only beginning the proceedings and encourages Benjamin to write down what he knows of possible criminal named Clarence Hanlin. In three months, the judge intends resume the trial.

Benjamin has read few books in his lifetime, but one of them was *Moby-Dick*, so he has command of the English language and comes to enjoy sending letters. As a bonus, the judge takes an interest in the boy and begins sending him writing materials and other gifts. Benjamin's parents are dead. He scratches out a hardscrabble living doing woodwork and other odd jobs. As if life were not hard enough, he must take care of his half sister Samantha ("Sam") and this is no easy task.

Sam is one of the most cantankerous, unobliging, and stubborn characters ever met in fiction or life. But we must have some sympathy for the girl because her face was badly mauled by a panther, not just any panther, but one legendary throughout the Texas Hill Country. This same panther killed Sam's mother, and like Ahab chasing the white whale, she is obsessed with finding and killing it. Benjamin has little choice but to fall in with her quest, though he more or less thinks she is tilting at windmills.

Next in the story is Zechariah—an old one-eyed hound, equally as legendary as the panther. Although Zechariah is a genius at tracking the panther, his owner, Preacher Dob, is initially dead-set against loaning him out. Soon, though, both are involved in the hunt. Lending much gallantry to what becomes a panther posse is a Tejano outlaw named Pacheco.

Misfortune and bad luck ensue, due especially to interactions with Preacher Dob's nephew, Clarence Hanlin—a despicable fellow who nurses a deep hatred for Sam. You see, she shot off his finger.

Suspenseful up until the very end, Benjamin's descriptions and interpretations of what went down during the panther hunt are by turns wry, raw, colorful and endearing. Readers who enjoy Larry McMurtry's western novels will appreciate *The Which Way Tree*. Also, because of the time period and setting, I was reminded of *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. In the Acknowledgements, I learned that actor Robert Duvall read and enjoyed an early draft of the novel, so perhaps this roiling tale will hit the big screen.

Thank goodness for talented authors who write about the bygone days of the American West. My fascination with those times continues to flourish because of their literary skills.

This review also appears on LitLovers:  
<http://www.litlovers.com/reviews/2018...>

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## **Steve says**

A pleasantly surprising, fun, unique, engaging, and, ultimately, gratifying novel (in the truest sense of the word, with bonus points for its novelty). And don't be surprised if this ends up on the big screen (sooner rather than later, but more on that below).

Texas (which is obviously Crook's stomping ground) after the Civil War is the backdrop for this coming-of-age, epic revenge-based quest/crusade, period piece that offers a story within a story, each of which, to some

extent, stands nicely alone. My sense is the publisher saw an analogy to *True Grit*, which somewhat recently enjoyed a renaissance and renewed level of interest, but that undersells the work. Sure, much of the art here lies in Crook finding (and perfecting) the narrator's voice (which she explains in the acknowledgements). My sense is that some readers may initially struggle to buy into the narrator's authenticity, but if they give up, that will be their loss. (I'm reminded of the number of times folks have told me that they never embraced (or felt or heard) the cadence and lilt and inflection that constitutes the magic of Hillary Mantel's exquisite *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies*; if you can't hear the voice, I have no doubt both books are a disappointing slog. But ... but ... once you hear the music..., oh my!) Here, once you let go, give yourself over, and (of course) suspend your disbelief, and you begin hearing Benjamin's voice, the story merrily sings along.

Serious reader's tip: *after* you've read the book, don't skip the author's acknowledgements, particularly the passage about the author's inspiration for the book. If you don't feel a tingle up your spine, we're not cut from the same cloth. And sure, it's fun to know whether the story is destined for the big screen (or at least something on cable)? It sure sounds like it, and it's fun to think about casting the production. (Would Robert Duvall play Preacher Dob? Frankly, my preference would be Judge Carlton (although that would require a slightly different spin on the story, but Peter Falk's brilliant role in *The Princess Bride* immediately comes to mind).)

This book was dramatically different, and significantly more compact (OK, shorter) than the other Crook novels I've read, but every bit as entertaining. I didn't read it in one sitting but, if my schedule had been more flexible, I'm confident I could have (and would have immensely enjoyed doing so).

I'm immensely curious to see if, over time, the publisher tries to market this to the ever-expanding and diverse young adult (YA) reading community. It seems like the genre has exploded with supernatural/fantasy fiction (dystopia, vampires, etc.), and one always hopes that enthusiastic younger readers will broaden their horizons by sampling slightly different genres. Is this too Western for that readership? I hope not. Sure, this is a dramatic departure from the steady stream of reliable best sellers that John Green keeps writing (or, in a prior generation, S.E. Hinton's classic *The Outsiders*); but part of me thinks that younger readers who enjoyed, among others, *The Book Thief*, *Harry Potter*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Golden Compass/Dark Materials*, *Ender's Game*, and, I dunno, maybe even *The Graveyard Book* are willing to read stories completely divorced from their day-to-day experience, so why not? Apparently, they're still reading Paulson's *Hatchet*.... Could this be a modern-day *Little House on the Prairie*? If it shows up on the big screen, who knows?

As a sucker for a good ending, I thought Crook nailed it here. Enough twists and turns that I didn't see it coming, but enough of the right answers to my asked and unanticipated questions to leave me satisfied, relieved, slightly saddened, but fully gratified with the whole.

In any event, it's something completely different, elegantly constructed, and well worth a read.

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## Maxwell says

**3.5 stars** This was a very fun, fast-paced story. I enjoyed the different narrative techniques, of the letters and testimonies, to tell the story as well. It didn't blow my mind but it was really enjoyable, well written & researched, and I could see this making a very entertaining film. Would definitely recommend to people who enjoy things set in the wild west.

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## Keely says

In wild post-Civil War Texas, a young man named Benjamin Shreve writes his testimony about a murder confession he was privy to. But to make the territorial judge really understand how he came to hear it, Benjamin must also write the story of the legendary panther who killed his stepmother and mauled his half-sister Sam. It was on a quest to hunt down and take revenge on the panther that Benjamin and Sam became entangled with the murderer Clarence Hanlin, along with a friendly horse thief and an old preacher with a panther-tracking dog.

I received this book in a Goodreads giveaway, and it turned out to be a wonderful surprise. I seldom read Westerns (and by "seldom," I mean never), but I ended up loving "The Which Way Tree" and look forward to passing it along to my teenage daughter. The primary narrator Benjamin is thoroughly charming in his innocence, and the many twists and turns in his story of tracking the panther are paced just right. I found myself cheering on Benjamin and Sam in their adventure, and I liked that the surprises kept coming right through the final pages. The ending is just great, too--unpredictable (at least for me), but with a feeling of inevitability.

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## Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says

### 4 haunting stars to The Which Way Tree! ?? ?? ?? ??

The Which Way Tree was recommended by my friend, Diane S. Thanks, Diane!

Living in the Texas frontier, Benjamin Shreve has quite the story to tell written in his own twangy voice in letters of "testimony" to a judge. The Which Way Tree is considered a pursuit narrative, and I would add that it was very much an adventure in that pursuit.

Benjamin and his sister, Sam, are pursuing a panther that not only scarred Sam's face, her childhood, and her future, but also tragically killed her mother. She wants revenge.

I absolutely loved hearing Benjamin's voice and his natural gift for storytelling. Sam is a strong, invincible girl, and I rooted for her throughout. The abiding and enduring sister/brother relationship between Sam and Benjamin was beautiful to watch unfold. Their struggle to survive was impactful.

There were some triggers (violence human-to-human and between animals and humans), and living on the wild frontier "some" violence is certainly understandable.

Overall, The Which Way Tree is a well-written, engaging, and beguiling tale of the brother and sister bond and a thirst for revenge no matter the cost.

Thank you to Elizabeth Crook, Little, Brown and Company, and Netgalley for the ARC. The Which Way Tree is available now!

My reviews can also be found on my shiny new blog: [www.jennifertarheelreader.com](http://www.jennifertarheelreader.com)

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## **Fishgirl says**

This novel is pitch perfect and I do not say that very often. In fact, have I ever said that? Maybe I said it once or twice. I'm saying it today. I put it down and thought, "This is why I read fiction. This is the experience I seek." The novel is epistolary (a word I NEVER get to use)... epistolary, epistolary, epistolary. So either you like reading letters (and I do) and you'll enjoy this journey about a panther, loss, stamina, heartache, the power of the written word, hope, stubbornness, dirt, goats, the effects of heavy rainfall, trees OR you don't like letters and you'll be all kind of "wahhhh, why did you suggest this?" So make sure you like epistolary writing and fiction set in bygone eras and the resilience of humans in the face of a lot of adversity before you buy this or go to the library.

I got to the library and this was on hold for me and I thought hmmm, I have zero recollection of putting this on hold. Then the librarian came over and told me she put it on hold for me on my card after she'd read it. Ha. I live in a small place.

This Elizabeth Crook excels at evocative detail. It was a deft and nifty piece of writing. Five gold stars.

Over and out,  
Fishgirl

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## **Anna says**

I listened to the audiobook and the reader made it feel as I was listening to a tall tale told around a campfire. Set in Texas just after the Civil War and narrated by Benjamin Shreve, a teenager who's stepmother and younger half sister, Samantha, are attacked by a legendary panther. The stepmother is killed and Samantha is mauled, leaving her face permanently scarred. So begins the adventurous and perilous journey of an unlikely posse determined to track and kill the demon panther.

Told with wit, charm and candor, this engaging novel would make a fabulous movie.

4.5 stars

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## **Nancy says**

The Which Way Tree by Elizabeth Crook commanded my attention from the first page. I loved the voice and the story kept my interest.

In 1866 Texas, Ben is called to testify about a murder incident that occurred three years previous. The judge hopes to determine if Hanlin murdered eight Union soldier prisoners. Ben said he had come across Hanlin at the scene of the crime and that he was also at Hanlin's death.

A natural story teller, the boy's statement starts at the beginning of his life and the circuit judge, needing to move one, asks the boy to write down his testimony and mail it to him.

In a series of letters the boy relates a tale of single-minded vengeance.

Ben's mother died when he was a few years old. His father brought home a former slave to take care of the home and children; Sam was soon born.

When Ben was eight a panther attacked Sam. Her Sam's mother fought the cat and hacked off several of its

toes. She died saving Sam's life, but the girl was left hideously scarred.

After the death of their father, the children struggled on their own. The nearby Civil War prisoner of war camp have cleared out ready game. Ben must travel far for game and one day he happened upon Hanlin pick-pocketing the bodies of dead Union prisoners.

Sam is obsessed with killing the panther. While stalking the panther, the children come into conflict with Hanlin. They rescue his prisoner Pacheco. Hanlin now holds a grudge against them, but in Pacheco they have found a friend.

Ben's Testament is told in a series of letters, showing a fatalistic acceptance of his hard life in a hostile environment filled with danger from Secesh, Indians, and bandits. He works a job and takes care of their few livestock but Sam is idle and defiant. Her obsession with killing the deadly panther takes the children on a journey fraught with danger and filled with colorful characters who have lived ungodly lives.

Preacher Dob warns Sam that vengeance belongs to the Lord, and she replies, only if he can beat me to it. Preacher Dobs found religion and seeks to expiate his sins. The Mexican Pacheco knows all his mistakes are behind him.

Ben's life is filled with loss and hardship but there is something noble and perfect about him. He is unassuming and grateful and earns the judge's esteem. And the readers. He is a marvelous creation.

Ben is a natural story-teller and the judge comes to appreciate the boy's love of writing. When Ben requests more paper and ink, the judge readily provides them. When Ben complains about his worn quill pen, wishing he had a modern pen, the judge sends that as well. The judge's gifts increase, sending Ben books including Tristram Shandy.

When Ben threw ears of corn over the fence to the Union prisoners someone in return threw back his treasure: a copy of Moby Dick. The novel enthralled the boy and he mentions the book twice in his Testament.

Ben's tale is inspired by Melville's novel. There is Sam's single-minded obsession with revenge on the beast called El Demonio de Dos Dedos--the Demon of Two Toes. I also noted how Pacheco face scarred by pocks of black gunpowder parallels Queequeg's Maori tattoos. I had to wonder if Ben has embellished his Testament, writing not subjective truth but transforming his tale. Isn't that what writers do? Take life and tweak it, giving it meaning and form?

An Act of God, or nature, brings Ben's tale to a nail-biting conclusion, revealing at last what the judge wanted to hear at the beginning: why Ben is convinced that Hanlin was a murderer and is deceased.

In her Acknowledgement, Crook states that her manuscript came to Robert Duvall, who played Gus McCrae in Lonesome Dove. (A marvelous movie and book!) I can imagine Crook's book as a movie. Here's hoping!

I received a free e-book from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for a fair and unbiased review.

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