



So Wild a Dream

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Pennsylvania farmboy Sam Morgan learns the mountain man's perilous trade when, in 1822, he joins a fur brigade headed by keelboat to the trackless country of the Upper Missouri River. Sam is youthful and inexperienced but also strong, daring, and a quick study. These are all requirements for surviving a battle with Arikiras, killing a man, falling in love with a Crow girl, and making a grueling 700-mile trek, alone, from the Sweetwater River in Wyoming to Fort Atkinson on the Missouri, testing his mettle in his debut year in the Western wilderness.

In *So Wild a Dream*, Win Blevins has created a gripping, authentic, and captivating story of the men who matched the mountains of the Great American West.

So Wild a Dream Details

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Author : Win Blevins

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From Reader Review So Wild a Dream for online ebook

Diane Walters says

Apparently, I read this twice. Once on 2-22-15 and now on 1-9-19. I think I gave it three stars before because of the description of the dying animals and such. The story is about living in the wilderness, of course, and people did have to eat back then.

I got through the book this time, and it was quite humorous in places, colorfully told, and held my attention throughout. The author tried to use a full cast of characters that represented society back then: Indians, whites, French trappers, river men, con men, prostitutes, etc. What I liked about this was how the characters broke stereotypical tradition. One of the Indians, for example, had been highly educated, could speak four languages, and even worked in a circus for a while. It left the main character very confused about who he should trust or not when he ran into the different tribes. The descriptions of the land and waters were very good. It had a lot of action in it. And, I found it an entertaining book - obviously, more so than the first time around.

Mandy says

In this first book in Blevins' Rendezvous series we meet a young man Sam Morgan, who heeds the call to go west and embarks on a series of adventures in the untamed land of America's untamed west. There he meets a large cast of characters, some real, some imagined, and has all the adventures any young man could wish for. All the tropes of the western are here – and that's really the problem. They're ALL here, and it all felt too familiar. Meticulous historical research somewhat redeemed the book for me, but overall there were just too many clichés and stereotypes and too many stock characters to lose myself in the narrative.

Jade Lauron says

First read 9/2/13 - 9/5/13

Second read 3/11/15 - 3/12/15

Daniel says

This review originally published in Looking For a Good Book Rated 4.0 of 5

Win Blevins is an author whom I had not heard of before reading this, though that's likely because my exposure to western fiction has been severely limited.

In *So Wild a Dream*, young man Sam Morgan begins an epic journey. Stealing away on a flatboat he occasions into a series of characters familiar from our history books (such as William Clark and Jedediah Smith) and encounters a number of different Indian tribes where he falls in love, learns the native ways of doing simple tasks, and faces a cruel death. His response to the latter is to flee and with only a coyote pup as a companion, travels 700 miles on foot to return to the relative safety of a white man's fort. But the journey of Sam Morgan doesn't end there ... it is only just beginning.

This book is not unlike Homer's *Odyssey*, with Sam Morgan as our western Odysseus on an epic return home and running in to all sorts of characters, educational situations, and threats on his life.

Morgan's encounters with historical figures were less interesting to me than the time he spent with the Indians (I'll use the politically incorrect term here as it's the historical term for the Native Americans). The meeting of Clark and Smith (and others) sometimes felt as though it were included for its cleverness and to help establish the time frame for Morgan, neither of which was necessary. It wasn't distracting as much as it was just not important to me.

On the other hand, Morgan's interactions with the various Indian tribes was really eye-opening (from a historical point of view). This really hit home how the different tribes worked and lived so differently from one another. We (or at least I) tend to lump them together in their behavior and societal structure.

The ending of the book surprised me. This was not where I anticipated or expected Morgan to go, though it makes sense and is certainly in keeping with his character. (I'm clearly trying not to give anything away.)

The book is the first in a series and I will really look forward to reading more of this tremendous adventure.

Looking for a good book? *So Wild a Dream* is an epic western adventure by Win Blevins in the tradition of Homer, and brings with it some great American history.

I received a digital copy of this book from the publisher, through Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

Ronda Wian says

Great !

Never missing reads of the mountains man era this book ranks as with them. An epic journey to the fur trade. And it's struggles

Bob Bell says

There's still an old romantic left in my soul and having spent some time in Montana this book touched a nerve.

It's Schoolboys Own Annual all over again. Loved it !

To see today the Crow Reservation just breaks your heart ! Those once proud horseman so cruelly reduced. We never learn.

Polly Krize says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Historically accurate, Blevins writes as if he was actually with the mountain men on the Upper Missouri

River. Choosing to go off into the wild country, young Sam Morgan is tested on the rivers of the American West.

Gary Wallis says

Good book about the mountain men first going into the wild. More books follow this one. First in a series.

Gail Cordes says

Fun & great reading

What a great surprise this book was, as I didn't know the author. I'm a huge fan of historical novels of this genre & this one was so well written. Great descriptions of life & people & scenery. Can't wait to read next book. Will tell my friends to read this one.

Patrick Cauldwell says

A little cliché, maybe, but very entertaining. Follows all the classic tropes of Western literature. The author obviously knows his history, though, and has read all the classic mountain man journals. I'll definitely move on to the next book in the series.

Mikel Rhodes says

A great story based on facts.

This book is a top of the line historical fiction about the men who opened the west. The book is very well documented with real men and fictional men. The author is meticulous in maintaining historical integrity in all his characters. I highly recommend the reading of this book.
