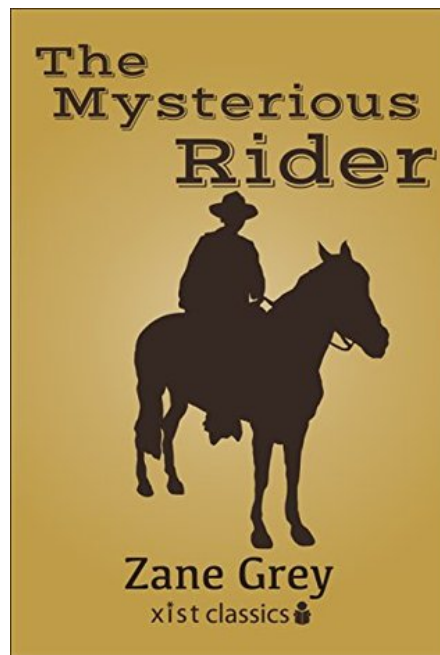




The Mysterious Rider

Zane Grey

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The Mysterious Rider Details

Date : Published July 31st 2015 by Xist Classics (first published 1919)

ISBN :

Author : Zane Grey

Format : Kindle Edition 264 pages

Genre : Westerns, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Mysterious Rider for online ebook

John says

good wealthy rancher with bad son and good adopted daughter . good story

Jeff Carpenter says

Another excellent book from Zane Grey. The vivid nature descriptions in this one allow you to see the imagery as the adventure unfolds. I have read this book several times before and I still enjoy it, each time I read it. The story is about Columbine Bellounds, the man she loves, Wils Moore; her adoptive father, Bill Bellounds, and his son, Jack Bellounds, whom he expects Columbine to marry. Of course Jack Bellounds is no good, morally weak and lacking virtue. Into this impossible situation rides Hell-Bent-Wade, a man who has a greater interest in Columbine's well being than is readily apparent to the other members of the drama. Grey weaves a tragic story that hooks you quickly and keeps you holding on the the very end.

Terry says

I read this book in 2015. I needed a western to fill a square on the summer reading bingo card. I thought the movie 3:10 to Yuma was pretty good, so I wondered if it was based on a book. I found out that it was based on a short story by Zane Grey. I found a collection of his short stories at the library, but I didn't want to read a collection of short stories. So, I picked up this book instead.

The basic story was okay, but I only gave it one star...for two reasons. One, I didn't like Gray's writing style. Two, I didn't like the young woman in this story.

Bobbi Jo Grigsby says

This book definitely kept me interested! Every time I thought I knew how something was going to play out, it went the complete opposite direction. Every chapter was unexpected.

I also enjoyed how much detail the author put into the surroundings. Almost as if you could actually visualize and feel each moment.

4 stars only because there would be many moments of frustration during the read with how much Collie went back and forth on what she said she needed to do.

Tom Kepler says

The Mysterious Rider is a more complex novel about redemption. Still a western romance, the plot centers around a young woman, an orphan named Columbine, who is entrapped by her allegiances into considering marriage to the drunkard son of her adopted father.

"Hell Bent Wade" is the mysterious rider, a man with a veiled past who has spent his life helping others--usually with the business end of his pistol, to the detriment of the evil-doers.

The novel is more complex in its conflicts, though, than many of Grey's romances. Rancher Bill Belllounds is a good man who is blinded by his love for his son. Hell Bent Wade is a good man who has done bad things. Columbine is a good young woman who is conflicted between her needs and the needs of her adoptive father. Jack Belllounds is the weak son who is hot and cold on morality. The love interest, Wilson Moore, loves as only a cowboy can--silently worshipping the rancher's daughter.

If I didn't have faith that Zane Grey would work everything out in the end, I'd fear that the realists or naturalists would prevail and everything would go to hell in the end--death, grief and suffering, and waste of life. However, Grey believes in the hero, and in the end like Beowulf meeting Grendel, the warrior comes to the aid of the people.

A Note About Zane Grey:

Zane Grey wrote his stories for the people who bought them. White, Anglo-Saxon Protestants, preferably male, are the protagonists. Women are bosom-clutching individuals, more emotionally fragile than men--strong but only in their own female way. Racial and ethnic minorities are of lesser stature than the WASP main characters. Grey's romanticized vision of the wild west, unfortunately, did not include the visionary equality of gender, race, or cultural diversity. He was a man of his times--and those times had their issues.

I have written earlier of Zane Grey that I have a love/hate relationship with his writing. I choose to accept, understand, and forgive--something he and many of his time were not able to do.

At Project Gutenberg, this novel is available as a free ebook: *The Mysterious Stranger* .

Kyria says

This is a wonderfully written book. The descriptions are lovely, and the characters fully fleshed out. You feel a real sympathy for the hero, yet he is not a perfect man. The book is easy to get caught up in.

Doug Dams says

This is my second favorite Zane Grey book. What I like about Zane Grey's writing is on the first page he introduces a place or person that makes you want to read on and find out more. In the first page of this book, we meet a girl who was discovered as a baby by miners. In later chapters we meet a rider with a secret past and a reputation as a gunfighter. The rest of the book tells the stories of these two people and how their lives have intersected. The story is well-told and the characters are interesting. If you enjoy a good western this is it.

John Lietzke says

Book review of The Mysterious Rider

This was a great book. I enjoyed the story. I need eleven more words. I guess my sentence did not work.

John says

As with Grey's other books, his description of magnificent outdoor splendor develops the atmosphere of this novel about conflict and romance on a Colorado cattle ranch. Strangely enough the Mysterious Rider does not initially appear until the stage is set and other characters are introduced. Consequently, the late arrival helps the reader know the importance of the Rider's role in this novel and how he ultimately relates to each character and influences their destiny in his brief time with them. This book is, therefore, a subtle reiteration of Donne's statement that "no man is an island," and whether for good or bad, all human beings have a significant affect on each person to whom they associate. To me, this was the strongest message in this enduring western tale. Furthermore, the lessons and virtues taught in this novel are timeless such as the Rider's repeated quote from the New Testament that "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." To some, the admonitions offered are old-fashioned drivel from an early 20th century writer, but for me it was a reminder of why we are here.

Jan says

Enjoyable Zane Grey move. This is a Western Romance. When I was in my teens, I was a great fan of Zane Grey novels. The life in the American West appealed to a young teen mind. After 50 years, I decided to pick up another one.

Zane Grey is still a pretty good read. But, is not an example of great literature.

The story is of a good adopted daughter and an evil son of a rich rancher. She commits to marrying the bad son to 'save him'. This seems a bit unbelievable to me. Her persistence in marrying such a bad seed. Anyway, the book moves along with a good guy and a savior.

The depictions of the Colorado wilderness are excellent.

David Roark says

Very good... His usual descriptive style was enjoyed, and the development of the characters. His way of depicting Wade I thought was especially interesting, and how he shows how Wade's dark premonitions build up to the climax of the story. "Thus she understood him. Love was the food of life, and hope was its spirituality, and beauty was its reward to the seeing eye. Wade had lived these great virtues, even while he had earned a tragic name."

Alicia says

Columbine, the young woman taken in by a successful rancher after being found wandering the wilderness as a toddler. is in love with Wils, the morally upstanding cattle hand. Unfortunately, her adopted father wants her to marry his good-for-nothing son. Luckily, there's a mysterious rider that comes into town with just the tools to help them out.

This was my first cowboy story. It was written in 1921, and doesn't have the structure or character

development we've come to expect in modern stories. It's also told just the way I'd expected cowboy stories to be told. The good guys are really good. The bad guys are terrible. The bad guys gamble and drink and steal cattle. The good guys are kind to animals, have good aim, always think the best of everyone, and ride horses like a boss. There's also plenty of bad grammar and cowboy jargon.

So, realizing this, I read the story for the experience. It was recommended to me by my grandfather, whose mother used to read Zane Grey aloud to him as a child. And, as a piece of my grandpa's childhood, as a piece of cowboy fiction, it was fun.

The uncompromising moral characters of the Columbine and Wils is not something you run into a lot in literature these days. It's seen as a flaw now. Modern characters need to be flawed to be likeable. That's part of what made this more enjoyable. It was idealistic and sweet in the raw frontier of Colorado.

I'll read another Zane Grey, if only to be able to share the experience with my grandpa, who grew up in that world and wanted to stay in it. Instead, he was a successful engineer, but in his heart, he's still a cowboy.

Omar Abdel-razzak says

Enjoyable yarn

I really liked this one. Zane Grey is not as good as Louis L'Amour with gunfights, but the plots are less formulaic. I couldn't put this one down till I finished it

Julia says

A good Western story in which a kind and generous rancher raises a handsome, spoiled, cowardly, deceitful, bad son, and adopts a baby girl found by miners after an Indian attack on a wagon train. The girl grows into a beautiful, loyal, loving, principled young woman, who feels she must pay back her dad for all the love and care he gave her. She and the evil son have been separated for a number of years due to schooling and other circumstances, and before Son comes home, Dad exacts a promise from her to marry his boy, because he believes only she can turn him around. Besides the obvious problem that this will absolutely ruin her life, she is in love with an honest, hardworking cowboy. (I did call her many names as she pondered this decision.) That stage is set before we meet "The Mysterious Stranger," known as "Hell-Bent" Wade, who has a habit of being compelled to turn up in places where he is able to help people with wise counsel, the story of his own life, and sometimes a little application of his awesome gunslinging talent. He has a dubious past, and trouble seems to follow in his wake. First published in 1921, I listened to this novel as a free download from Librivox.org, read by a very talented reader. (Several reviewers complained about the "cowboy talk" and "bad grammar;" all of that disappears when you listen to it read aloud.)

Theresa says

I usually love Zane Grey, but not this one. Let me summarize:

columbine: I have to marry Jack! I must for my father

Wils: But I love you

Columbine: I can never marry Jack! It would be wrong! I love you!

twenty pages later:

Columbine: I have to marry Jack! I must for my father!

Wils: But why Columbine? It will ruin you! I love you!

Columbine: I'll never marry Jack! It'll ruin me! I love you!

twenty pages later:

you get the idea.

Also twenty pages of Bent hunting and description of everything he sees in between every "I must marry Jack".

I spent the whole book hoping Bill and Jack died an ugly death. I got half of it.
