



West of the Pecos

Zane Grey

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From one of the bestselling western novelists of all time, comes another classic story.

Templeton Lambeth had so desperately wanted a son-- an heir to ride by his side through the vast, wild ranges just west of the Pecos River. But to his disappointment, his wife bore a girl. His hopes crushed and in denial, he decides to raise his daughter as if she were a boy. In honor of Lambeth's more successful brother, they named her: Terrill.

Upon the arrival of the Civil War, Lambeth enlists in Lee's army, leaving behind his wife and tomboy daughter, with hopes to reconcile living in the shadow of his brother. By the time the war ends, Lambeth returns a colonel and his wife has passed. Tired of his old life as a cotton planter, he packs up with his tomboy daughter, Rill, and heads for the alluring western frontier to start anew.

After they arrive in the West, the Colonel is brutally murdered. Rill, disguised as a youth of eighteen who rode with the toughest, is left to fend for herself in the Wild West swarming with outlaws. Enter the one they called Pecos Smith--a rugged desperado with a mysterious past and one bad reputation. Though, he may not be what he seems.

Filled with adventure, bandits, and the beautiful landscape of America in its formative years, *West of the Pecos* is a classic tale by one of the greatest novelists of the American west.

Skyhorse Publishing is proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in fiction that takes place in the old West. Westerns--books about outlaws, sheriffs, chiefs and warriors, cowboys and Indians--are a genre in which we publish regularly. Our list includes international bestselling authors like Zane Gray and Louis L'Amour, and many more. While not every title we publish becomes a *New York Times* bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

West of the Pecos Details

Date : Published by J. Curley (first published 1931)

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From Reader Review West of the Pecos for online ebook

Herb says

Really good, surprisingly literate tale of the Old West. Actually very enjoyable.

David says

I actually read my Great-Grandfather's copy, which has a copyright of 1937 on it, published by Grosset and Dunlap and not dated.

Modern readers may take offense at the stereotypes and use of racial and ethnic epithets which permeate the story, but as I considered it, this may well have been the way the rough society of the period functioned.

The story itself is about what is left of the Lambeth family, Father and Daughter and a pair of their former slaves heading west to make a new life. Into the story comes a tough as nails Texan who is also seeking to make a new life for himself, but he has some baggage that may be the undoing of many folks.

Then there is Judge Roy Bean, who eventually plays a bit part of some importance at the end of the story.

As Westerns go, it is pretty good. Well written, tight and nicely paced.

delNorte says

Lectura entretenida y muy ligera. Hay que tener en cuenta la época en la que fue escrito pero tiene unos personajes y unas tramas taannn inocentes que te saca una sonrisa :-)

Fer de Uña says

Esta es la primera novela que leo de Zane Grey. El autor recrea de manera magistral al viejo oeste, con unas descripciones muy ricas que me han hecho situarme perfectamente sobre el terreno, viviendo la historia de Pecos y Rill como un personaje más. Quizás dónde flojea un poco la novela es en los personajes, dado que no permite conocerlos demasiado bien, y sólo al final el lector intuye características de su personalidad concretas. En su conjunto, resulta una novela entretenida y con buen ritmo, y cualquier amante del género *western* la disfrutará: por sus páginas desfilan cuatreros, mejicanos, pieles rojas, pistoleros, terratenientes... e incluso un juez, Roy Bean, con un pequeño pero simpático papel. También resulta agradable ver la impronta española en Tejas, con los numerosos topónimos y expresiones en castellano que usan los protagonistas.

Por otra parte, hay ciertas partes de la novela que no resultarían aceptables hoy en día, y eso es lo que la hace más auténtica. Los protagonistas son rudos y bastante poco cultos, pero nobles y trabajadores, con una religiosidad que me ha sorprendido no por lo habitual pero sí por lo sincera: como cuando Pecos se maravilla de que Dios haya sido "tan bueno" con él, recordando entonces las plegarias de su madre. También me ha hecho gracia el momento en que Rill, que se viste y actúa como varón, tiene este diálogo con Sambo:

- Sambo, deja de llamarme señortia Rill - protestó Terrill -. Llámame señorito Rill.
- Claro que sí, señorita Rill, lo haré cuando me acuerde. Pero usted es lo que es y nunca podrá ser lo que no es.

En cuanto a los indios, adoptan el papel habitual en las películas del oeste: son salvajes a los que hay que expulsar para que avance la civilización. Sin embargo, hacia el final del libro el autor los humaniza más, cuando los protagonistas tienen un enfrentamiento con ellos, y Terrill puede ver que los pobres kiowas "están en los huesos".

En resumen, una novela de aventuras entretenida, que se lee rápido y deja buen sabor de boca.

Shae says

This was the first Zane Grey I ever read as a middle school student -- which is amazing to me, because as I read it this time I found the first few chapters really slow and overly landscape descriptive. Once I got past that though I was totally captivated by the story and cowboy language. It is the story of Terrill Lambert, a young girl who disguises herself as a boy, at first to please her father's dream for a son and second to protect herself in wild west Texas when her father is murdered. Her path crosses with Pecos Smith, one of my all time favorite cowboys/vaqueros, who has to save her from the local bad hombres This is the quintessential western: buffalo stampede, rustlers, wagon ambushes, cattle drives, gun slinging, cowboy romance. Here is my caveat -- this book was written in 1931 so there is plenty of racial stereotyping that would easily offend today.

Corinne says

Fun but for its cringe-worthy overt racism

Stacie Haden says

Thought I'd try a Zane Grey. It was fine, maybe not my style.

Doug Dams says

This book is an example of the typical Zane Grey book. A cowboy named Pecos Smith has a mysterious past and he comes into contact with a damsal in distress. The adventure of coming west to start a new life, conflicts with outlaws and eventually succeeding is told in Zane Grey's descriptive style. The description of being caught in a buffalo stampede is well worth the read. You can almost feel the thundering stampede as you read.

Fredrick Danysh says

Templeton Lambeth heads west with his daughter Terrill following the Civil War. When Templeton is murdered Terrill is left to fend for herself until desperado Pecos Smith crosses her path. A romantic western of the early 20th century.

judith seats says

Great

Excellent writing and adventure. Interesting from page one to the end. Never knowing what will happen next. Have to keep reading to find out.

Jude Brigley says

I loved this book as a child and for nostalgic reasons I give it many stars. I loved the film with Robert Mitchum as a child also.

Kathryn says

The Texas landscapes and harsh living conditions back then were very well portrayed. Tried, true and Texan to the core sums up the people who worked hard and triumphed. The rotters are basically the same no matter where you live, dang their dark hearts anyway.

Violet says

I have read a lot of Zane Grey. I don't think I can say all, but maybe most, of his books have a romantic interest in them where it takes the entire book to win the fair maiden; and this one is no exception. He is the master at description of the western lands. This story is about a girl of 15 who dresses as a boy and travels west from Louisiana with her father and a married black couple. They have a guide to take them to a good place west of the Pecos and finally arrive many months later. When Pecos Smith meets them again a few years later, they are at the same ranch but her father has been killed by rustlers. She is still passing as a boy but during all their trials Pecos accidentally discovers that she is a girl; he keeps her secret. However, her secret is outed during a battle with the bad guys again and they admit their love for each other and get married. Assume they live happily ever after. Very entertaining.

Elaine says

One of my favorite Zane Grey books - I absolutely loved his books as a kid! Reading his books led me to fall in love with the American Southwest.
