



To The Last Man: A Story of the Pleasant Valley War

Zane Grey

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To the Last Man is the story of Arizona's Pleasant Valley War, one of the most legendary conflicts of the Old West. A venomous feud between cattle ranchers, the Isbels, and sheepherders, the Jorths, plunges both families into a deadly cycle of vengeance. Yet, even as their families spiral into annihilation, Ellen Jorth and Jean Isabel struggle to keep their fateful romance alive.

To The Last Man: A Story of the Pleasant Valley War Details

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Author : Zane Grey

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From Reader Review To The Last Man: A Story of the Pleasant Valley War for online ebook

Alyx Tschirhart says

Where is the 4.5 star rating?!?! Thoroughly enjoyed listening to this book on Audible. Jim Gough was another excellent narrator.

The story is like many westerns. Set in the later part of the 19th century; has mention of cattle, Texas and guns; and includes a dimension of romance.

During parts of this book I caught myself imagining this as a western version of Romeo and Juliet. However, this book heavily favors one family over the other. But then again, both sides have their own share of faults.

Character and plot development was spot on. Zane Grey is one terrific author.

Lloyd Hinkle says

I loved Louis L'Amour books thought I would give Zane Grey a whirl. Sometimes the language is a bit dated but a quick easy read

Thomas Druen says

Great western romance

I have loved Zane Grey since introduced to his stories by my father many years ago. In this western version of Romeo & Juliet he stays true. Here is a timeless tale told by a timeless author about a timeless place. Thank you for making this available now if we can get more youth to read these classics.

Kilian Metcalf says

My grandmother left a handwritten document recording everything she knew about the family. When my father had it typed, it ran to 12 pages, single-spaced. She had a remarkable memory for family history. There was one huge gap: aside from the date and place of his birth, there was nothing about her husband, my grandfather Monet Gould Metcalf. Many years later, my mother told me the reason: my grandfather was a half-breed, and she was ashamed that she married him because she was pregnant. Not only was he a half-breed, but he was a bastard. His parents weren't married. They couldn't get married because the anti-miscegenation laws prohibited marriage between a white person and an Indian (as they called Native Americans then.)

Read the rest at my blog

Sheila says

As the name implies, and in spite of the characters seeming to have more sense, the killing goes on to the last man. It is Zane Grey's interpretation of a real event.

Theresa says

This book is a lot like a western Romeo and Juliet but with the opposite ending. Obviously with a title like "To The Last Man" we all know that it is going to be a fight til only one man lives. Also to the last man doesn't include women.

I really enjoyed how the story kept going back and forth from where Jean was to where Ellen was. That way when Jean did something amazing or heroic, it was told to Ellen. This allowed her to marvel at him, and furthered her affections for him without making him seem like a show off.

Mike (the Paladin) says

This would for me be a 3.5 book (ah could we but give half stars). I don't rate it a 4 above as I didn't enjoy/like it as much as I have most to all of the books I rate 4 point... After all beyond that all that's left is a full 5.

The book is much more of a romance than I look for. It reminds me that Zane Grey (whom I read more of in my teens and preteens has a very strong streak of romanticism in his writing. That accounts for my dropping the half star. It's just a personal point...I don't care for heavy romance.

If you like you might sort of think of this as Romeo and Juliet in the old west...sort of. The feud that serves as the back drop for this story was a real one and was one of the bloodiest in American history. So far as I can find out the actual cause of this feud is lost to history (or at least I suppose an agreed on cause). The feud while probably not as well known as say the Hatfield McCoy feud (from my part of the world...my late wife was half Hatfield half McCoy) this is a well know feud and has been fictionalized elsewhere in books, movies and on TV (including an episode of Gunsmoke). In an afterward Grey mentions that one resident of the area told him that as far as he knew only one participant in either family actually survived (thus Mr. Grey's title). I don't know how many survivors there were/are who got out of the area and didn't participate.

As I said this book is heavily a romance, but don't get the idea that this makes it a calm and easy read. there are still the bloody confrontations and fights that come off so real because of Grey's long suit, descriptive writing. While I might have preferred a story more about the feud and it's effects on the area around and western history in general rather than so much about Zane Grey's star crossed lovers, it's still a good book and a good read. Grey himself points out in his afterward that some of the scenes depicted in the book (especially a couple of the more violent ones) actually took place. So, a highly fictionalized romance placed in the midst of a bloody feud from American history. Strong characters, dialogue that's a bit dated (1920s) but still moving and effective and a well told story. I think I may even recommend it to a friend who

particularly likes romance.

Päivikki says

Jotakin suomeksi myös..

Romanttista hömppää länkkäriaikaan sijoittuen, en pitänyt kovin kummoisena kirjana.

Zane Grey - Viimeiseen mieheen
(Riksin sarja 43, Wsoy, 1959, 7.painos)

Alkuperäisteos: To the Last Man (1921)

Riksin sarja oli WSOY:n julkaisema pehmeäkantinen kirjasarja, jossa julkaistiin viihderomaaneja vuosina 1950-1960. Riksin sarjan nimi on peräisin vanhasta Ruotsin rahayksiköstä riikintaalerista eli ”riksistä”, joka oli sata äyriä. Riksin sarjan myyntihinta oli aluksi 100 markkaa, jota kutsuttiin puhekielessä ”riksiksi”.^[1]

Erityisen paljon sarjassa julkaistiin Agatha Christien, James Oliver Curwoodin ja Zane Greyn romaaneja.

Antikvariaateista Riksin sarjaa löytyy yhä paljon ja monilla Riksin sarjan kirjat ovat kesämökkien vakiolukemista.

Julia says

An adventure/romance set in the wilds of Arizona. A crisis builds between two feuding clans of ranchers and sheep-herders, that began years ago in Texas where the two fractious and antagonistic patriarchs grew up together. The action is non-stop as the tension increases, and the gorgeous natural environment is described wonderfully. The romance is woven throughout between the beautiful daughter (brought up among rough cattle rustlers) of one clan's leader, and the handsome and brave tracker/fighter/half Indian son of the other leader. First published in 1921. I listened to this as a free download from LibriVox.org. It was read beautifully.

Karen Baney says

about a son coming to Arizona to help his cattle-ranching father for a pending feud with sheepherders in the 1870's. On the way there he meets a woman sheep herder and falls in love--only to discover later that she is the daughter of his father's arch enemy.

As the tale unfolds its mixture of action and romance, the book becomes impossible to put down. The detail in which he describes the action scenes leaves you feeling like you are right there in the middle of the gun fight. The romance is sweet and endearing.

At times, some of the descriptions of the landscape seemed a bit wordy, but did not detract from the overall story.

Mike says

Pure genius! Zane Grey never ceases to amaze. Decades after his death, his books are as fresh and inspirational as when they were written so long ago.

This book is the abridged version of "Tonto Basin." Apparently, "Tonto Basin" was too large for the magazine in which it was first introduced to the public, one chapter per month. I had read "Tonto Basin" in 2010, the first year it was released in paperback.

I visited Payson, AZ last month and purchased this book at the museum book store there. I had no clue it was the same book, in essence, that I'd read over 4 years ago - not until I got into it a bit. How surprised I was to discover I'd already read it! Seeing since it had been four years since I read "Tonto Basin," it was nearly like reading the story for the first time.

The story is pure fiction, but loosely based up an historical fact - a feud between cattlemen and sheep herders over 100 years ago. Known as the "Pleasant Valley War," it was much bloodier than the more well-known feud between the Hatfields and the McCoys back east.

A great story written by a great author!

Sharon says

The reason I picked up this book was because I had just read the true story of the Arizona Pleasant Valley War and the real life feud between the Graham and Tewksbury families. I thought it would be interesting to read Zane Grey's fictionalized version of these events. However, his novel contains a gratuitous Romeo/Juliet love story that is pure fabrication and which I found distracting, amateurish and containing stilted dialogue. The real-life story is much more interesting and a better read. In this case, fact is indeed better than fiction.

Doug Dams says

This is sort of a Romeo and Juliet story set in the old west between two ranchers. One rancher gets his cattle by rustling and shady deals, the other rancher has sworn vengeance against him for the deaths of family members and his cowhands. The son of the second rancher comes home but meets the daughter of the outlaw rancher before he knows what has happened. Settling the feud and saving the girl keeps the book moving at a lively pace. The story was based on an actual feud in Arizona that Zane Grey researched.

Dave says

This is a book I would really like to be able to use half stars. I really liked the majority of this book. I could hardly stand to put this book down. This hasn't happened in a long time! This is also the first western I have read in a long time as well. I think I will have to mix westerns in the mix a little more often. The writing was good. Grey is really able to paint a picture in your mind especially of the scenery. The romantic portions didn't bother me, but by the end of the book the western speech of the speakers was starting to bother me some. Also there is just a slight bit of nudity mentioned that I didn't appreciate. It could have been skipped! Without these two things (speech and nudity), I would have definitely rated this a 4, but it was not 5 star material. I may revisit this later and decide to upgrade to 4 stars after I have more time to think about it.

Genndy says

This is an enjoyable western romance novel. It's main motives are love and revenge, and all the way it dances on the very edge of becoming really cliched, but fortunately, writers plotting skills compensate for that, and make the reader to turn his view away from some lacking and predictable plot twists. Although it is sometimes unequally paced plotwise, and some of plot elements have no function whatsoever (for instance, main character's dog, which runs away, appears, and runs away again), but, despite obvious unpolishness of this work, it is still an enjoyable page turner, and sometimes that is all you can ask for. Let's not be pretentious about literature. It is an enjoyable book.
