



Tales of the Far West

Gareth-Michael Skarka (Editor) , Scott Lynch , T.S. Luikart , Jason L. Blair , Dave Gross , Aaron Rosenberg , Chuck Wendig , Tessa Gratton , more... Eddy Webb , Will Hindmarch , Ari Marmell , Matt Forbeck ...less

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Featuring a dozen tales from critically-acclaimed and award-winning authors from the fantasy, science-fiction, horror and adventure genres, Tales of the Far West kicks off Adamant Entertainment's line of Far West fiction, which will include novels, further anthologies and more.

Far West is a world based on the tropes of the Spaghetti Western and Chinese Wuxia. Add steampunk elements. Mix well.

Product Description

Imagine: A fantasy world, but not one based on Medieval/Dark Ages European culture and myth, but rather on the tropes of the Spaghetti Western and Chinese Wuxia. Add steampunk elements. Mix well.

A fantasy world that mixes the inspirations of Django and Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon... The Good, The Bad & The Ugly and House of Flying Daggers... Fistful of Dollars and Fist of Legend.

A fantasy world that's explored through a book series, a constantly-updated website, a tabletop role-playing game, comics, artwork, webseries and much, much, more.

This is FAR WEST.

Tales of the Far West is the first book in Adamant Entertainment's Wuxia-Western mash-up, featuring a dozen all-new tales written by critically-acclaimed and award-winning fantasy, science-fiction, horror and adventure authors, including:

"He Built The Wall To Knock It Down" by Scott Lynch: A master teaches an unforgettable lesson in the pursuit of excellence in all things.

"In Stillness, Music" by Aaron Rosenberg: A wandering musician is all that stands between a village and a cattle baron.

"Riding The Thunderbird" by Chuck Wendig: A herd of giant, flightless birds, a young girl, and a sudden lesson.

"Purity of Purpose" by Gareth-Michael Skarka: Who seeks the secret of the Unsurpassed Weapons?

"Paper Lotus" by Tessa Gratton: A strange girl tasks a wounded man to deliver a crucial message.

"In the Name of the Empire" by Eddy Webb: A sheriff is charged with the murder of an Imperial Magistrate.

"Errant Eagles" by Will Hindmarch: A gunslinger faces the consequences of his past.

"Railroad Spikes" by Ari Marmell: A bandit finds that he's robbed the wrong train.

"The Fury Pact" by Matt Forbeck: An inventor's son faces the responsibility of his name.

"Seven Holes" by T.S. Luikart: An apprentice learns the true nature of demons.

"Local Legend" by Jason L. Blair: Red Phoenix was dead, and the bounty hunter tells the tale.

"Crippled Avengers" by Dave Gross: A band of fighters seek to take revenge on the steam baron who crippled them.

Tales of the Far West Details

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Gareth-Michael Skarka (Editor) , Scott Lynch , T.S. Luikart , Jason L. Blair , Dave Gross , Aaron Author : Rosenberg , Chuck Wendig , Tessa Gratton , more... Eddy Webb , Will Hindmarch , Ari Marmell , Matt Forbeck ...less

Format : Kindle Edition 226 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Steampunk, Fantasy, Anthologies, Westerns, Weird West, Short Stories

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From Reader Review Tales of the Far West for online ebook

Casey Hansen says

I am not typically the type who read short stories, usually preferring novels between 500 and 1000 pages, so my rating is a little biased based on that. What I will say about this book is that almost all the stories were good and many of them left me wanting more of the small world they had created. Too short and unconnected for me to give it a 4 or 5 but if you enjoy westerns or steampunk and dont mind reading shorter stories that this would be a great book for you

MeiLin Miranda says

I Kickstarted this project a while back for the RPG portion; this was a perk in addition to the game, a collection of short stories set in the game's world. Boy, if the game is as good as this story collection I'm gonna have some fun. Not every story is a gem. I don't care for horror/grisliness that much and one piece in the book is grisly and not much else. But the other stories more than made up for that one, and that one was simply a matter of preference. Well done, all, and can't wait for the game.

Nick Brett says

This is great fun, and a great price too (if bought on kindle).

It's a series of short stories set in a shared fantasy world which is part old West cowboy, part steampunk and a dash of magic. It works pretty well and the authors here (most famous is probably Scott Lynch) take their own approach to the sandbox they are playing in, while remaining true to certain central themes. The stories are all fun and at times quite clever and you sense the authors have enjoyed the experience and that comes through in the way they present their stories. Fans of Chris Wooding's Kitty Jay series would probably enjoy this and it's a shame they didn't get him to contribute a story, maybe next time.

This is well worth picking up.

Joseph says

At the risk of repeating myself, anthologies are always, or at least usually, something of a mixed bag and this was no exception. But the highlights, including stories by Scott Lynch (I *really* need to read the Locke Lamora books sooner rather than later) and Ari Marmell, amongst others, more than compensate for some of the less stellar offerings, and nothing in here was truly bad.

At its heart, this is a tie-in anthology for an as-yet unreleased (I believe) pen & paper role-playing game. The setting is an imaginary world that combines elements of spaghetti Westerns, Chinese wuxia films and a thin layer of steampunk -- imagine Sergio Leone directing Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon with some of the devices from Wild, Wild West added to the mix. If that sounds appealing (which it certainly did to me!) then you could do a lot worse than checking out this anthology, especially because the e-version was \$5 on Amazon.

Michael says

I'm a fan of Sci-Fi/Fantasy anthologies and have found that anthologies can be something of a mixed bag of stories, with me enjoying some more than others. Overall I really enjoyed this anthology, it has some brilliant short stories in it, and its style was a little different to what I have read before, I enjoyed this anthology from start to finish.

It's based around a fantasy world, but not one based on/in Medieval/Dark Ages European culture and myth, but rather on the tropes of the Spaghetti Western and Chinese Wuxia with a bit of steampunk mixed in. It is an anthology where all the stories are based within the same world, which I thought gave the whole anthology greater depth.

It was excellent to see how the stories tied in together - a mention of the Twin Eagle Security and Thunderbird's mentioned in more than one story really brought them together.

With this anthology being part of a larger world I will be delving into more of the work that is based in the world put forward in this anthology.

Introduction by Gareth-Michael Skarka

I always make an effort to read the introduction to an anthology and make comment to them in my reviews to an anthology as I think that they are a very important part of an anthology as (at least in my mind) they help set a tone for the anthology to help show how the collection of short stories have found their way into the mix. Gareth-Michael Skarka's introduction definitely helps to do this, explaining that this anthology is part of a fantasy world that's explored through a book series, a constantly-updated website, a table-top role-playing game, comics, artwork, webseries and much, much, more.

He Built The Wall To Knock It Down by Scott Lynch

A great opening to this anthology, which in my mind truly captures the spirit of what this collection, is trying to accomplish. The story is told from the point of view of the scribe, and tells of his relationship with his master who saved the scribe when he got a little too cocky when trying to expose a cheat at a poker game. The story follows journey of the two of them as the scribe tries to learn an unforgettable lesson in the pursuit of excellence in all things.

The protagonists are well written and I really enjoyed their personalities and how they interacted. I enjoyed the names given to the characters as well; the name of a character can make the character. The story flowed beautifully creating a world in which the story is set with seemingly little effort by Scott Lynch. If you are a fan of Scott Lynch and the Gentleman Bastard sequence (as I am) then it is worth reading this brilliant short story by him.

In Stillness, Music by Aaron Rosenberg

A wonderfully written short story which adds a lot to this anthology, the plot is well developed for such a short piece and the imagery within the story is beautiful. Melodius Flight a man who has a close relationship with music is a member of '*The Wounding Stars*' a group/clan whom deliver messages for people but do not get otherwise involved with the messages that they are carrying. Melodius Flight's character gave me the impression of being a Buddhist monk of some sort.

Melodius Flight brings a message to the '*Cattle Baron*' regarding a bridge which has been damaged which means that the Baron must find a new way to get his cattle to market, and without giving too much away Melodius Flight gets involved. This is the first time I have read anything by Aaron Rosenberg and I would like to read more of his work.

Riding The Thunderbird by Chuck Wendig

Not my favourite addition to this anthology. I think that this short story would work brilliantly as a chapter of another story and expanded a bit. I did enjoy the story, though I just wanted more from the story once I had finished. It is well written and the plot that is there is good with a bit of a twist at the end which I didn't see coming. This is the first time I have read anything by Chuck Wendig and I may well look into trying out a few more of his stories.

Purity Of Purpose by Gareth-Michael Skarka

This very short story was a superbly written addition to this anthology, which I found created a scene really well within such few pages, the backdrop to the story was implied and had my imagination working well to envision the surroundings. A master teaching asks his students '*What are the unsurpassed Weapons?*', only one student replies – '*Master, the Unsurpassed Weapons are The Pistol and The Sword.*', “*‘Correct,’ said the Master, ‘and why are they called so?’*” *‘The standing student paused momentarily before answering. ‘Purity of purpose, Master.’”*

These two questions and answers provide the main bases of this story in my mind and the title of this story is based upon this section of the story. This is the first time I have read anything by Gareth-Michael Skarka and I would like to read more of his work.

Paper Lotus by Tessa Gratton

This was another very short story adding a different aspect to this anthology. The story was well written and flowed well. The story is based upon a strange girl who tasks a wounded man to deliver a crucial message in the form of a paper lotus. I did think that Tessa Gratton was able to write some beauty/art into death which I think gave the story more depth.

I think the plot could have been expanded a lot more and the story lengthened to give a bit more development to the surroundings it is set in. I don't mind violence and sacrifice as part of a story as long as it fits the story well, but this story didn't really resonate with me, sadly. For me, this story needed more of a build-up for me.

This was the first time I have read any of Tessa Gratton's work, but I would be interested to read some more.

In The Name Of The Empire by Eddy Webb

This is brilliantly written short story which fits perfectly into this anthology. The plot is based upon a local sheriff (Alaric Norna) who is charged with the murder of an Imperial Magistrate. Detective Salia Madweather is brought in to investigate the case by the sheriff's deputy Charda Freeder. The story was written in a way which was easy to visualise, and the characters themselves had strong personalities and it was good to see a strong female lead in this story.

This was the first time I have read any of Eddy Webb's work, but I would be interested to read some more.

Errant Eagles by Will Hindmarch

One of the longer stories in this anthology, '*Errant Eagles*' follows a gunslinger faces the consequences of his past. I enjoyed the story; it was well written and had a good plot which I think would hold up to being a longer story as I think that there is a lot which could be done with it. The story was descriptive and the fight scene was pretty much detailed blow by blow, making you think that you were actually there witnessing it. This was the first time I have read any of Will Hindmarch's work, but I would be interested to read some more.

Railroad Spikes by Ari Marmell

I really enjoyed reading this short story, although I found it slightly confusing to begin with I got into the flow of the story and the plot. The story is based around a bandit named Ross Gandry who finds that he's robbed the wrong train. He thought that this train would be easy pickings, a treasure ripe for the taking. He

was very, very wrong, it turns into a nightmare. It's a bit like 'Saw' meets 'The Great Train Robbery'. This was the first time I have read any of Ari Marmell's work, but I definitely want to read some more.

The Fury Pact by Matt Forbeck

I really enjoyed this well written short story; it fits in perfectly with the overarching theme of this anthology. It is well written, with a good plot which is based upon an inventor's son faces the responsibility of his name. The inventor's son is out testing one of his father's inventions when he sees smoke in the distance from the farm where he and his farther live. What he finds when he returns and the choices he makes change his life forever.

This was the first time I have read any of Matt Forbeck's work, but I definitely want to read some more.

Seven Holes by T.S. Luikart

This brilliantly written short story has a great plot in which an apprentice learns the true nature of demons and how to deal with them. I really enjoyed this story I loved the plot and wished that the story was a lot longer than it actually was; I think that this short story would do well as a much longer story.

This was the first time I have read any of T.S. Luikart's work, but I definitely want to read some more.

Local Legend by Jason L. Blair

'Local Legend' is another brilliant addition to this anthology, which was well written and had a well-paced plot which was easy to follow. Red Phoenix a famous bandit has been killed, and the bounty hunter (Hano Duneph) tells the tale of how he did it. There is a great twist in the story which, and the story leaves you wanting more.

This was the first time I have read any of Jason L. Blair's work, but I definitely want to read some more.

Crippled Avengers by Dave Gross

This brilliantly written short story brings this wonderful anthology to a close. In this story a band of fighters seek to take revenge on the steam baron who forced them into slavery and then crippled them. The well written story had a great plot which held my attention from start to finish and when it did finish, I was left wanting more. A great story to finish off this anthology!!

This was the first time I have read any of Dave Gross's work, but I definitely want to read some more.

Ken says

In *Tales of the Far West*, Skarka brings together a number of today's top writers to create an anthology like no other. In this collection you will find that elements of Wuxia and Kung Fu are brilliantly mixed with Western and Steampunk to create a slick and unique world.

By far the best story of the anthology is Scott Lynch's entry, "He Built The Wall To Knock It Down", which truly captures the essence of what this collection is trying to achieve. The story is told from the point of view of the scribe, and tells of his relationship with his master who saved the scribe when he got a little too cocky when trying to expose a cheat at a poker game. The story follows journey of the two of them as the scribe tries to learn the lessons his master has to teach.

The other entries that I also enjoyed includes "Purity of Purpose" by Gareth-Michael Skarka, "Railroad Spike" by Ari Marmell and "The Fury Pact" by Matt Forbeck, these stories are shorter but just as thrilling and leaves you wanting for more.

The stories in this collection are just the beginnings for a role-playing game that is still in development so I know much of the background hasn't been worked out yet. However I wish the stories here are more interrelated like in the Wild Cards series so I can get a fuller sense of how the world is and who the players are.

This anthology contains some brilliant stories and have created an interesting world for the upcoming RPG. It's well worth the money you pay even if you are getting it for Scott Lynch's story alone.

(Originally posted at <http://www.paperlessreading.com/2012/...>)

Louis says

These are a number of short stories in a setting that is a mix of western and wuxia. It is a setting where life is brutal and sometimes short, and living legends still walk the land. But even legends are only human, and normal people have to find a way to live.

The story telling is wonderful. Most of the stories have protagonists who are complex in motivation, and wily in applying their skills and wisdom to the situations that face them. And for two genres known for fighting, many of the stories are on how wisdom was more important than combat skills, even for those whose reputations were for fighting. The stories draw you in, and I don't feel cheated at the reveal, rather smiling in wonder.

Mike says

Tales of adventure, revenge, and danger in a world where six-guns and swords can carry legends that shake men's souls. It's wuxia meets old west, where kung-fu meets high noon, and it's a very fun idea to explore.

The book is an anthology, and as such is somewhat uneven (the "old west SAW" type story was my least favorite), but the good stories were very good and almost all of them paint a picture of a setting that makes me interested in the upcoming RPG.

Scott Lynch's story is especially well done, and almost worth the price of admission on its own, as well as possibly pushed this from a 3 to a 4 for me.

Guy Gonzalez says

Gareth-Michael Skarka has assembled a solid mix of storytellers to shed light on his intriguing new setting, Into The Far West, a Spaghetti Western/Wuxia/Steampunk mashup that promises a mix of fiction, gaming, comics, and more to come. From Scott Lynch's rousing He Built The Wall to Knock It Down, to Eddy Webb's clever and abrupt In the Name of the Empire and Matt Forbeck's crisp The Fury Pact, there isn't a false note in this engaging anthology (though the last story does uncharacteristically suffer from some very sloppy copyediting), and it's well worth a read whether you're into gaming or not. I'm looking forward to more from this setting, and though I'll likely never play the game, if there's enough fluff to go with the crunch, I'll buy the rulebooks for pleasure reading!

Victor Castillo Rodriguez says

Una interesante antología de historias ambientadas en un juego de rol de futura aparición. Far West es un proyecto transmedia (que bonito suena eso, es el nuevo "multimedia") que une los elementos del spaghetti western con los del wuxia. A priori, esta mezcla me parece lo puto mejor y espero con ansias un juego que lleva ya cuatro años de retraso. Las historias están medianamente bien, pero el libro no llega a tener cuatro estrellas simplemente porque no todas las historias están a la altura. Pero con todo, ya tienen futuro comprador.

William P. says

This property is shaping up to be an excellent setting for all kinds of goodness. These stories are all of the highest quality and entertaining as hell. My only problem is that there are a number of typos in the book; spelling errors and even an omitted word or two. That's bad, and it makes me worry a little about the attention being paid to such things over at Far West HQ. Still, everything here is delicious reading and I intend to push it on everyone I know when the print edition comes out. Hopefully with fewer errors.

Anton says

Excellent short story collection! Every one of the stories is worthy attention. Nicely done!!

Very well executed 'shared world' created by multiple authors to bring to life an unusual but fascinating setting of weird west meets wuxia meets steampunk.

Very strongly recommended for the fans of Sanderson's new Mistborn cycle and if you enjoyed novels by John Hornor Jacobs.

Angela says

I decided after the profoundly disappointing and enormously frustrating experience that was GRRM's "Dangerous Women" anthology that I would no longer trudge through collections on the grounds that I needed to give all the contributors a fair shot. Consider *Tales of the Far West* the first victim of that decision.

The premise was cool enough: a bunch of stories by a bunch of different authors, set in a world that is equal parts American Old West, and traditional Far East. Far West. Get it? Anyway... A series that's equal parts wuxia and high noon shootouts should be fantastic, right? Throw in some steampunk because, well, steampunk is the Trend of the Moment, so people obviously love it. There's no way westerns and kung fu and steampunk all at the same time could possibly be uninteresting, right?

I need to stop getting my hopes up in regards to these matters.

I will also admit to starting this one because of Scott Lynch's inclusion. Andy Lynch's story (a good 25% of the anthology on its own) is a solid ride. It did not, however, impress me in the way his *Gentlemen Bastards* novels have, or his incredibly fun Red Hats world. Lynch's contribution here is good, but not great.

The other four or five stories following that I did read were somewhere between okay and good. But, again, not great. Certainly not memorable or, ultimately, anything I would recommend to a friend. And not enough of an incentive to journey through the remaining 60% or so of the anthology.

Katharine (Ventureadlaxre) says

"He Built The Wall To Knock It Down" by Scott Lynch - 5/5 stars. Wonderful as always - opening lines were perfect Lynch and everyone's name was unexpected yet suitable. Good to see the female just walk away, too.

"In Stillness, Music" by Aaron Rosenberg - 4/5 stars. Really quite lovely, different to most things out there. It's always good to see a baddie who's sensible instead of so ruthless it's stupid.

"Riding The Thunderbird" by Chuck Wendig - No rating, as I had no idea why what happened, happened, or the point of the story.

"Purity of Purpose" by Gareth-Michael Skarka - 4/5 stars. Really quite awesome. So short and yet it conveyed feeling and intent, and it's always good to see experience trumping overall - so many times you see someone so young beating someone with experience, without enough reason why.

"Paper Lotus" by Tessa Gratton - 2/5 stars. Not my thing. I'm all for violence and sacrifice, but this didn't resonate with me, sadly. Needed more build-up for me to want to care.

"In the Name of the Empire" by Eddy Webb - 4/5 stars. Easy to visualise, entertaining and enjoyable all 'round.

"Errant Eagles" by Will Hindmarch - No rating, as I wasn't able to read through the fight scene (which was step, by step, by step) and beyond.

"Railroad Spikes" by Ari Marmell - 3/5 stars. Confusing start, but otherwise good and entertaining.

"The Fury Pact" by Matt Forbeck - 4/5 stars. Short, snappy, sad and believable.

"Seven Holes" by T.S. Luikart - 4/5 stars. Very good, well written, would have liked to see more.

"Local Legend" by Jason L. Blair - 4/5 stars. Entertaining and a good ending.

"Crippled Avengers" by Dave Gross - 3/5 Pretty decent.

Overall: An anthology based in the same world! It was excellent to see how they could tie in together - mentions of Twin Eagle Security mentioned in more than one story.

Francis says

The story collection is more miss than hit, but the Scott Lynch piece is a solid 5/5 and worth the price of admission alone.
