



The Last Ferryman

Gregory Randle

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In 1939--and for several decades preceding that year--the only way to cross the river at Millerville, Illinois, was by ferry. It seemed there always was a ferry in Millerville. Buck Shyrock, the local ferryman, knew that better than most. Being a ferryman was in Buck's blood--his grandfather and father both had ferried folks across the Wabash, from the Illinois side to the Indiana side and back again. To Buck's way of thinking, Millerville was a "ferry town ... and it'll keep on bein' a ferry town." Even though in recent years there was talk of building a bridge across the river, that's all it was--just talk. Buck was sure of it. Buck's certainty is shaken, however, by the appearance of Floyd Bailey, a roll of blueprints tucked firmly under his arm, and by the growing awareness that Bailey is to act as project engineer on the erection of a suspension bridge--a bridge that will mean the end of Buck's way of life.

The Last Ferryman Details

Date : Published December 17th 2013 by Langdon Street Press

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Author : Gregory Randle

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From Reader Review The Last Ferryman for online ebook

James says

Wow. This book was great. Well written with complex and very real characters. I enjoyed reading this. Won courtesy of Goodreads giveaways.

MK says

She slipped through August's arm like sand sifting out the bottom of a sack.

The quote above – which appears just a few pages into the story – is so delightfully apt that I knew from the start I was going to love this novel.

A good caption both invites further study of the work it introduces and indicates what can be found there. Each chapter in this book is a beautiful little quilt block, with the chapter title as the caption. The finished quilt is lovely and comforting and warm and sturdy and a work of art, all at the same time.

I look forward to the author's next book.
<http://fernweh428.wordpress.com/>

Victoria Bayerl says

Very interesting light read. I always wanted to come back and read more.

Jeanette says

I was fortunate to have won this book in a recent Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

An enjoyable read which was based around families and relationships during the late 1930's in a small mid western town. Beautifully written and hard to believe that this book was the author's first novel. I rarely write what a story is about for fear of spoiling for others, but I do highly recommend. I shall be on the look out for when the author writes his second novel.

Jim Puskas says

A quiet, thoughtful, very human story and very much a period piece, depicting a time (1939 when the coming horrors of the war had never penetrated the consciousness of mid-west small tow America) and a place (on the banks of the Wabash).

A remarkable first novel, brilliantly capturing the complex personalities of its protagonist the ferryman, his

family and others in that community. There are several themes running together, some of them never exploited to their potential but the main story, the end of an era and its impact upon those close to it runs true. Above all, there's an honesty to the narrative and the characters that makes it immediately appealing. Readers who enjoyed Wendell Berry's "Jayber Crow" as I did will appreciate this one too.

Molly Ewing says

The Last Ferryman captures mid-twentieth-century small town life with a clear-eyed nostalgia. Sympathetic characters and relationships are at the center of this story of how a bridge under construction across the Wabash River will affect families, individuals, friendships, and the character of one Midwestern town. Fascinating log entries of the engineer overseeing the project are interspersed with short chapters that build depth, much like glazing on a painting. Randle is an author to know.

Jennifer says

I received this as part of Good Reads First Reads

This is the story of Buck Shyrock, the ferryman in Millerville, Illinois in 1939. He has been the ferryman for years , and even though he is aging he still wants to be the ferryman. He doesn't want to give up the job he loves for anything - not even when a man, Floyd Bailey, comes to town with plans for a bridge across the river. The bridge will save the townsfolk from having to drive miles out of their way to get across the river but will it mean the end of the ferry. Buck and his dog patrol the water daily. His family help to look after him since his wife died but he has his faithful dog for company , until one day the dog is murdered. Buck's son August is all for his dad giving up his job but his wife Belle is compassionate and can see how it will affect Buck and so tries to be supportive in these changing times. The author has written this book in such a way that this could be happening in any town in any country. You feel like you are right there with Buck and his family and the bridge builders. A really good read

Lenna says

I really enjoyed just about everything about this book: I loved the small cast of characters, I loved the parallel plot lines, and it was just a well-paced novel. The characters were likable, the story overall had the right touch of melancholy, and I think *The Last Ferryman* has re-read value as well.

I have already recommended this book to friends, who in turn, also enjoyed this book!

* See my review of this on citybookreview.com*
