



A Man Called Outlaw

K.M. Weiland

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All his life, Shane Lassiter had revered the man who stood in place of the father he had never known. Nathaniel Wilcock had taken Shane into his own home, loved him as a son, and placed within his grasp one of the largest ranches in the Wyoming Territory.

But Shane had heard the stories. He knew the whispers about the fugitive gunman who stood against Wilcock during the land wars that had rocked the valley almost thirty years ago. In Nathaniel Wilcock's eyes, the gunman was nothing better than a vigilante and an outlaw, and as such he had died. To the people of Hangtree, he was a hero — a martyr who had stood against corrupt power and injustice.

When Wilcock's greed moves him against the only woman Shane has ever loved — a woman who holds the secret that could resurrect everything for which the outlaw fought — Shane finds himself forced into a place not so very different from that of the outlaw thirty years ago. He must make a decision, the shadow of which will forever be cast over the lives of all those he loves. A decision between truth and power — between honor and life — between right and wrong.

A Man Called Outlaw Details

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From Reader Review A Man Called Outlaw for online ebook

Rich Weatherly says

A Man Called Outlaw features struggling settlers in the Wyoming Territory as they attempt to counter aggression by a narcissistic robber baron. Be sure to read the book description for a good synopsis and I see no need to repeat it.

The plot line alternates between the late 1850s and the late 1880s. By reading from the earlier period the reader gains insight into a mystery. The early period also contributes to the reader's understanding of the plot and character development.

In many ways, the main character is the antagonist, Nathaniel Wilcox. He is introduced as judge and a corrupt one at that. He owns the largest ranch in the area and is determined to use every means possible to expand his property without consideration for who he hurts or how deplorable his methods become. If you are like me, you will grow to despise this slick, conniving narcissist. He lives by the Darwinian principle of survival of the fittest. He epitomizes corruption, injustice and hypocrisy.

In contrast I found myself pulling for the underdogs, those settlers attempting to survive on the fringes of Wilcox's property. These are admirable if flawed people. The author does not present us with larger than life characters. Each has strengths and weaknesses. For me I found their constant struggles against a ruthless, powerful opponent to be quite admirable. You will grow close to several of these very realistic individuals.

Ms. Weiland weaves a good storyline with enough tension, action and fighting to keep most readers interested. Her descriptions paint vivid imagery. She knows and understands the lives of cattlemen, cowboys and their families. Her action scenes on horseback are exceptional.

Toward the end of the book important elements of the plot converge toward a resounding climax. My wish is that you read and enjoy A Man Called Outlaw as much as I did.

I highly recommend it!

Natalie says

Hmmmm. I really am not quite sure what to say about this book. I hate to give a book of K. M. Weiland's only three stars....but for now, that's all I'm feeling.

A Man Called Outlaw was wonderfully written and plotted. I loved the dialogue, the banter between friends (especially Lane and Emile) and the timeless Western quality. The characters were vivid. The Major was an exceptional antagonist and villain. IMO, he may be the best of K. M. Weiland's villains. I loved Anna and her strength. Or rather, where she drew more strength when her own ran dry—from God. She was an amazing heroine and quite possibly my favorite character.

Shane was...well, I liked Shane. He did not always do the right thing. But it was understandable. His sense of justice, his viewpoint was so twisted and warped by the Major, it made sense for him to be "hanging on the fence" so to speak between his loyalties to Anna and the Major. I personally would have liked him to have become a more...mmm, offensive? I feel like he was reacting to things the entire time. He hardly ever (except

for the ending, perhaps) just got up and decided to DO something. He just felt a little bland at points, especially compared to K. M. Weiland's other heroes.

Characters aside, the story itself fell short for me. For one, it builds slowly, like a ticking time bomb. Some may love this, and maybe I would have loved it too, in a different story. I just kept expecting the book to "grab" me at some point and it never quite did.

I loved Shane and Anna's side of the story. More so than Andrew's, although I understand how vital his story was to the plot. But, the constant changing of viewpoints, between 1859 and 1887 was jarring to me. Just as I would get interested in a scene or event, the chapter break would occur and thrust me back thirty odd years. It was frustrating. (I don't handle suspense well, can you tell? :P)

When the book wasn't making me itch from impatience for "someone to DO something" it would bore me with gunfights. And there's kind of quite a few. I get it, it's a Western, every self respecting Western should have at least one instance of a gun being fired.

But it's not really my thing. If some of the action scenes had been cut down to make more room for character growth and resolutions, I would have been much happier.

Which brings me to the ending. (view spoiler)

All in all, I don't regret reading this, but I certainly didn't fall in love like I was expecting. There was too much a feeling of tired sadness in this story...and not enough redeeming happiness.

Kym McNabney says

How do we come to read a book? A suggestion from a friend? Happen to come across it on the internet? Spotted it on the shelf at the store? However one comes to purchasing a book and reading it is not as important as the outcome. Just the same, here is how I came to read A MAN CALLED OUTLAW by KM WEILAND.

I happened upon A MAN CALLED OUTLAW due to reading a non-fiction by KM WEILAND. My thinking was if she is able to give great advice on writing a novel, it is worth seeing if she can produce the type of stories she has aided others to write.

Shane Lassiter never knew his biological father. Nathaniel Wilcock stepped up and did the job. A man Shane owes everything to yet questions his morals.

Anne Cassidy refuses to sell her land. Not to the man that threatened to destroy her, or any other man. She was willing to even refuse the man she loved.

I have this bizarre love hate relationship with A MAN CALLED OUTLAW KM WEILAND. Well, perhaps

hate is too strong of a word. For many chapters the switching from the past to future, and the number of characters had my head swimming. If not for the amazing writing, I would have given up early on.

The amount of characters and how soon they were introduced was an issue. The switch from the past to the present at times was an issue as well. Even more so due to the same character names in both. The more I read, the more it became apparent that I could not stop reading *A MAN CALLED OUTLAW*.

Despite the fact that switching from past to present can be a tad confusing, I love this approach to a novel. Author MAUREEN LANG did this brilliantly in *THE OAK LEAVES* and *ON SPARROW HILL*. Living in the past and the present, getting a glimpse into both just to have it all come together in the end is something you won't get in a novel that takes place in only one time frame.

To be honest, I would have loved to have a better ending. Or perhaps a second book to continue where *A MAN CALLED OUTLAW* left off. I wanted closure, though one may argue that MS WEILAND did just that.

What I loved about *A MAN CALLED OUTLAW* is the connection to the past and the present. The unique way the author wove them together. MS WEILAND did an amazing job of adding the element of surprise. There were a few things that I thought I knew what was going to happen, just to be shocked to discover something else.

Brilliant writing and a unique approach to a storyline will have me reading more books – both fiction and non-fiction – by KM WEILAND.

Randy Tramp says

The Story

Major and Judge Nathaniel Wilcock would do anything to get what he wanted and the man desired the entire river valley. In the Old West where the law was determined by the strongest, Judge Wilcock was the most powerful and the most feared. Only a few would go up against him. This is the story about those few that against great odds, challenged the authority of injustice. The book goes back and forth between two dates: 1858 and 1887.

My Thoughts

The lawlessness of the Old West blazed a trail in my contentiousness from the words that K.M. Weiland crafted. In brilliance she took the reader on a journey of self-discovery and showed the determination of the human spirit. With great darkness, light shines the brightest. The characters in, “A Man Called Outlaw,” were some of the most aluminous. The read was riveting, exciting and thrilling. I enjoyed the moving back and forth between 1858 and 1887. That style caused more mystery, more questions, so that, when the answers were revealed it was a surprise.

I am also reading Weiland’s book, “Structuring Your Novel: Essential Keys for Writing an Outstanding Story.” As I read, “A Man Called Outlaw,” I applied the teaching from “Structure Your Novel.” It helped me learn how to be a better writer. She is a very good mentor and I highly recommend this book and I also recommend her podcast: *Helping Writers Become Authors*.

Margaret Metz says

I loved this book. I waited a long time to get it and was really happy to finally get a chance to read it.

At first I was a little disoriented by the back & forth in time bit, but that quickly went away. I couldn't seem to read fast enough to figure out what was going to happen. I wanted to reach in and shake Shane a couple times. If that isn't a sure sign of good writing, I don't know what is. ;o)

I wished the book had gone on for another couple chapters. This is one I can see myself re-reading. It had a lot to say on many levels beyond just enjoying the story.

Naomi Musch says

A Man Called Outlaw is the story of Shane Lassiter, a cowboy who's grown up in the home of Judge Nathaniel Wilcox as the son Wilcox never had. Shane's love and admiration of the judge stands him to inherit the largest ranch in Wyoming Territory. But his whole life Shane has heard stories about the gunman who'd stood against Wilcox during the land wars. To the folks of Hangtree, that vigilante was a hero, but to Wilcox, he was nothing but a murderer who'd died an outlaw's death.

Then Shane finds himself in a not-so-very-different place than the outlaw when the life of the only woman he's ever loved is threatened, and the secrets she carries resurrect everything the Outlaw fought for. Shane is forced into a decision certain to affect everyone he loves and to bring him face to face in a showdown with justice and truth.

A Closer Look:

I really, really like this story. Why? Because it's a big 'ol western, raw and real. It's got bold courage and desperate cowardice. Dare I say it? It has True Grit. It also puts me in mind of another great classic film, The Big Country (Gregory Peck, Jean Simmons).

Outlaw unwinds with restless tension that keeps on building right up to the final pages. Ms. Weiland weaves into it a cast of characters who act ruthless, jealous, resilient, naïve, desperate, heroic.

Ms. Weiland experimented a bit when she penned Outlaw. She staggers the timeline, going from the present (Shane Lassiter's story), to the past (the Outlaw's story) and back again. Because of the staggering timeline, and the fact that we know at least something of the outcome (the outlaw is dead in Lassiter's time), she had to do some real work to keep us interested.

She did this by keeping the stakes tremendously high in the sections taking place 30 years later, and by giving us a mystery from the past to solve right along with Shane Lassiter. She also doesn't hold back on truth. Violence happens, and good guys don't always succeed in their quests. By not succumbing to the desire to offer us a "safe" read, the tautness only increases.

We writers have to all be able to sustain interest, whether we're writing experimentally or not. When stakes start to fall, so does reader investment. And if we want to make our reader feel more deeply, then we have to write with truth, a sometimes painful task - at least for some of our characters.

A Man Called Outlaw is a bittersweet story. We know early on that the Outlaw is dead, but we don't know why. And as his story unfolds, we cheer for him. We want him to live.

But in fact, it's not really his story. It's Shane Lassiter's story. Weiland reminds us of that again and again, building that tension, showing us his flaws when we're screaming for him to be flawless. But when all the threads finally tie together, it's satisfying, even in its harsh realism.

Alayna Mitchell says

I don't usually read western book because there are very few that I like, but this book was amazing. The characters were so compelling. Even though I guessed right away what the big reveal at the climax was going to be, I couldn't stop reading. I needed to see what the characters' responses would be.

I only have two complaints:

First would be I needed another chapter at the end. It gave a good sense of ending, but I just like to know more about what happens after. I felt like I didn't know what was going to happen to the two main characters. Of course, maybe it was better that way. This way I can end it in my mind the way I want it to end.

Second complaint is the switching between past and present was hard, not that I didn't like it, but I got too attached to the past characters even though I knew it wasn't going to end well for them. Andrew was my favorite, so it was sometimes hard for me to go back to the other characters. It wasn't a huge issue, I still love the story and have already recommended it to others.

I received the ebook for free in exchange for a review

Sarah says

Okay...Well...I'm not sure what to think of this story. Review probably to come.

David Kubicek says

I won't say too much about the plot of A Man Called Outlaw. To do so might give away too much information, and I hate giving spoilers.

This novel tells two stories, thirty years apart, and switches back and forth between them--a few chapters in 1887, then a few chapters in 1858-9, then back to 1887 again. In the end the story-lines merge, and loose ends are tied up.

I hope that's not giving away too much. But it's obvious from the beginning that there are two stories going on. I even guessed the big secret long before the ending, but that didn't lessen the suspense. I was still eager

to see how the story played out.

The author does a good job of maintaining suspense, and despite what I thought I knew, it kept me riveted until the end. In addition to the "greedy rancher trying to force the smaller ranchers off their land" plot, the 1887 protagonist, Shane Lassiter, is struggling with his own ethical and moral dilemma which is resolved in the novel's explosive conclusion.

Have given too much away? I'll shut up now. This is a great read and a good addition to every western afficianado's library.

Brenna H. says

Hmm. I have mixed feelings about this story. But "mixed" pretty much describes it: bitter mixed with sweet.

The layout of the novel was...shall I say irksome at times, because it kept going back and forth between two times, two stories. It seemed like every time I was getting into the problems of one set of characters, I'd be forced back to the others...and then I'd get into *those* characters and then be ripped back to the others again. (And so on and so forth.) Some characters overlapped both times, and the conflict was pretty much the same, down to the same main villain (who was incredibly annoying--gah! So evil and *manipulative*--there were so many times when I just wanted him to die...but then, that was kind of the point, I guess...). Anyway, I'm rambling, so I'll get back to the point.

I should've guessed it would be a bittersweet story by the end of chapter two, after being introduced to the protagonist of the earlier time--who I knew was dead in the later time. And his inevitable death made me sad, because I liked him. Possibly/probably more than the protagonist of the later time.

The ending was somewhat ambiguous. It wrapped up the main plot, but kind of left me hanging on "what happens next?" regarding the main character. But then, such an ending rather fit with the themes (for lack of a better word...maybe I'm thinking of "tone") of the story.

If this all sounds negative, I don't mean it to. It was a good story, well-written (K.M. Weiland has become a new favorite author of mine), and one of the most thought-provoking and emotion-inducing ones I've read in a long time. I just wish it were... happier.

H. S. Kylian says

First, allow me to say that, just like with Storming and Dreamlander, I totally wish this would be made into a movie!

Now, onto the rest. . .

OH. MY. GOODNESS. That's all my reaction is right now. I caught the foreshadowing for 'it' at some point, but then got a bit thrown off by eye color (which I flipped back some pages to straighten out), and the 'name'. Then when it was getting close to revealing what I suspected, I was literally shaking. When it happened, I

was so excited that I shouted out, "I knew it!"

This is definitely a favorite on my shelf!

P.S. One thing I did catch was that the back cover and at one point in the book, said they were in Wyoming Territory, but then it was called Nebraska Territory twice. I did also catch maybe two typos.

HazelNut says

How do I even write this review? I'm still reeling and rather speechless.

Yes, I sorta knew how it would end.

No, I did not know how bad it would hurt when it did.

This book has two storylines, thirty(ish) years apart. And I love both of them so much. When one would end(on a cliffhanger, of course), I would be internally screaming for the resolution of that storyline. And when it switched from one to the other again, it would leave me gasping for the rest of that storyline.

The main protagonists are amazing. I immediately liked the "good guys" characters, and only grew more attached as the storylines went on. The outlaw(who shall remain nameless because spoilers) and his buddies/family are great. Their banter and camaraderie was really fun to read. I loved(is that even the right word o.O) reading and going along with Shane's and Anna's struggles. They were real. They were painfully real. I love the verse of Scripture that recurs in Anna's mind: "Not Destroyed."

The villain....oh gracious, the villain was twisted and evil. The kind you hope you never ever meet in real life ever(yes, there are two "ever"s in there, yes I meant to do that).

Yes, I would have been happy with another chapter or two, but I also liked how it ended as well? It gave a sense of satisfaction along with a need for a sequel(*hopefully looks towards Ms. Weiland* maybe a sequel please? : D).

Oh look, I'm not totally speechless after all. XD

But before I make this just a feelsy ramble of feels, I shall sum up. This book is amazing. Go get a copy and read it now.

I received a free copy from the author in exchange for my honest review

Elisabeth says

A Man Called Outlaw is something refreshing: a recent book that readers of classic-style Westerns will enjoy. There's plenty of action, but there's also substance. It reminded me somewhat of a Louis L'Amour

novel, but with deeper internal conflict, higher mental and spiritual stakes for the characters.

The novel shifts back and forth between two storylines, set thirty years apart. In the 1880s story, Shane Lassiter finds himself in a crisis of conscience over whether to remain loyal to Nathaniel Wilcock, the man who raised him, or to oppose actions of Wilcock's that he knows are wrong—which are also directed against the woman he loves. The earlier plotline tells the story of a man known as "the outlaw," who fought against Wilcock in the 1850s, at the beginning of the long-standing land war. While I pretty much knew what the eventual connection between the two stories would be, the 1880s plot layers enough complications and twists to keep the ending uncertain, and coupled with the characters' personal conflicts, creates a tension that almost amounts to frustration in places. If there's one thing that makes reading the book a little bit difficult, it's that the characters spend a lot of time suffering.

The book is peopled with a variety of interesting supporting characters who play their parts well; some, in fact, I would have liked to know more about or seen developed further—Russell, for instance. Emile, the Frenchman who appears in both storylines, was one of my favorites; I thought Weiland did a particularly good job with his ever-entertaining dialogue. The one gap in the plot I would like to have seen addressed further was the space between the two storylines—how Lane Cassidy managed to hang on to the Sundally ranch all of those years, and exactly what happened to Celeste during that time. Most of that seems left to the reader's imagination. The writing is very good, with the minor exception of an occasional odd word choice that puzzled me here and there. I also liked how the element of certain characters' Christianity was presented in a way that enhanced the storyline, without descending into preachiness, and was pleased to see not just one but multiple minister characters portrayed as men of sense and strength, something not always common in a Western.

Clare Farrelly says

I received a free e-book copy of this in exchange for my honest thoughts, and all views below are my own true feelings about this book.

K.M. Weiland is just about the best crafter of characters ever, the only problem with that is that she then puts them through everything possible and hurts them all so badly and not only in physical ways, oh no I mean serious emotional struggles. All the writing just connects you to the characters and draws you body and soul into the story.

The only thing I did not really like about the book was the confusion of working out what was going on whenever we jumped 30 years in time. The two stories fitted together well, and I guess it really only worked that way. But because a few characters overlapped I would sometimes have trouble remember which story went with which person. In particular the bad guy. Speaking of him he has joined the list of the best worst villians in history. He reminded me a lot of Mayor Prentiss from the Chaos Walking trilogy, who along with Dolores Umbridge are the most horrible bad guys I can think of, those three characters just give me creeps.

There is a lot of injustice in the books, and shootings, gun fights, love, hard choices, desperate circumstances and shady histories, which are all mixed together into an amazing story. Which I really enjoyed, after I had got over the ending. Andrew was my favourite character, and even though I knew..... well spoilers.... you will have to read the book to find out the depths of my despair.

Lindsey says

This book's plot was the highlight. I thought it was well crafted and thought out. At some points you could see the plot twists coming from a mile away, but it felt in line with the story.

Where I was disappointed with this book was the character development. I felt like the characters could have been more dynamic and deeper. I did not fall in love with any of the characters, nor feel invested in their struggle. I was also surprised since I love KM's books on writing, that it was missing strong dialog and scene descriptions.

All in all the book was easy to read and entertaining.
