



Knights of the Range

Zane Grey

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"Is Frayne an outlaw?" Holly Ripple asked. "Miss Holly, it takes bad men to cope with bad men on this frontier. If you could hire him, he'd be a whole outfit in himself. Course, a lady like you wouldn't have Frayne's sort around your ranch." . . . "Wouldn't I?"

When her father dies, sheltered young Holly Ripple gains possession of his vast cattle empire, plagued by rustlers and desperadoes. But she stands firm and soon has earned the reputation of a strong-willed cattle queen.

Knights of the Range Details

Date : Published July 28th 1992 by HarperPrism (first published 1936)

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Author : Zane Grey

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From Reader Review Knights of the Range for online ebook

Kyle says

If you appreciate westerns here is an enjoyable and entertain story. Engaging, enjoyable, and a quick read. Recommended it.

Rich says

My opinion, but the best mix of Classic Western and appropriate romance. A rare 5 star. Takes place in new Mexico for a change. Includes 'facts' about it's getting settled.

Ken says

Just wonderful, what a forgotten gem by a great storyteller! Moving 6,000 head of cattle through the Australian outback in the mid 1800's. Beautiful travelogue of a raw, unforgiving, beautiful continent.

Robert Hepple says

A fine novel from a classic Western writer, first serialised in 1936. The story is well laid out, with a lot of traditional old-school western mythology in it's background and speech patterns. There is some casual use of racist language that, while unacceptable today, was probably common at the time of writing, along with stereotyping that goes with it. In mitigation, the black character against whom this is directed, is not only a sympathetic character, but also takes deadly revenge against the main perpetrator. Very enjoyable, and recommended to any regular readers of Grey.

Marlin Ames says

A great western saga!

This is one more prime example of Zane Grey's talent, he has a flair for descriptive writing and can put you in the events depicted. I appreciate the moral value and heart touching romance and color of Mr. Grey's stories, they indelibly make a memory worth pondering....

Jack says

I read a Zane Grey western once before that was really derogatory to the Mormons. It was not a good book. This one was a better story, but still not very good writing.

Rene says

Fantasy author Jim Hines recently wrote a blog post about how 'Jupiter Ascending' wasn't really a sci-fi movie, but a fairly tale with spaceships. I can't tell you if this was the Wachoskis intent, but that change of context helped in my enjoyment of that film.

The transporting of classic story tropes into the Western setting has resulted in some epic cowboy classics; 'The Magnificent Seven', 'A Fistful of Dollars'. And now, after completing it, 'Knights of The Range'.

Holly Ripple, a young, headstrong woman, brought up in the upscale boarding schools of the east, has inherited her family's cattle ranch in 1870s New Mexico, after the sudden death of her father. With the help of the ranch foreman and Renn Frayne, a newly hired hand; a outlaw seeking redemption, they organize a assorted group of cowboys to protect the herd, and the safety of their ranch, from rustlers, competing cattle barons, and other assorted villains.

Change 'ranch' to 'kingdom', and 'cowboy' to 'knights' and you get the idea.

The context switch aside, I enjoyed the scope and story telling. I found myself not being offended by some of the racist language. Having been originally written in 1939, it's probably a better depiction of the language as spoken in the American West. Grey depicts Miss Ripple's band of cowboys as essentially decent men; loyal, both to her and to each other.

Though not the most well known of Grey's works, this is a great introduction to the Western genre, along with 'Taggart' by Louis Lamour

Beverley Davis says

One of the things a lot of people overlook is Zane Grey often showed the ignorance of racism and sexism in his stories by having one character voice the racist or sexist comment and then have the one subjected to the comment show them wrong.

It's been a long time since I read Knights of the Range but I remember the girl in the story was strong and not afraid to fight for what is hers. She loved passionately and lived high wide and grand...and it was her love that saved the outlaw. Maybe Grey wouldn't sell today with everything rated X if you want to sell a book....but let there be no doubt his men and women were real flesh and blood characters that he loved.

Zane Grey knew how to write about the land...and the land was as much a part of the story as the people.
