



Glorious: A Novel of the American West

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New York Times-bestselling author of *The Last Gunfight*, Jeff Guinn turns his eye for evocative detail and history to a sweeping novel of the Old West, weaving a compelling tale of life in the Arizona Territory in 1872.

We've all got mistakes in our past we'd rather forget.

Cash McLendon has always had an instinct for self-preservation, one that was honed by an impoverished childhood and life with an alcoholic father barely scraping by on the streets of Saint Louis in 1872. He's always had a knack for finding and capitalizing on the slightest opportunities, choosing the path of financial security over happiness or real friends. He eventually builds himself up from a Saint Louis street urchin to the son-in-law and heir apparent to industrial mogul Rupert Douglass. Though it lacks passion, his life seems securely set: a wife, a career, property, standing.

But when tragedy strikes, all of his plans and his entire future dissolve in an instant. McLendon's instinct for survival kicks in; he flees Saint Louis, and Douglas assigns his enforcer, an ominous skull-cracker with steel-toed boots, to track him down.

With nothing to lose, McLendon attempts to reconcile with an old flame—a woman he was nearly engaged to but put aside in exchange for the life now in shambles. He heard through the grapevine that she and her father moved their dry-goods store out west, to a speck-on-the-map mining town named Glorious, in the Arizona Territory. There, McLendon tries to win her back, and in the process discovers a new way of life at the edge of the final American frontier. But he can't outrun his past forever. . . .

Glorious: A Novel of the American West Details

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Author : Jeff Guinn

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From Reader Review Glorious: A Novel of the American West for online ebook

Shawna says

I eagerly sought this out because I enjoyed Guinn's masterful nonfiction, unfortunately his talents did not translate to this novel. This book was slow to start, and plodded along without much of note happening. First I was a hundred pages into it, and thinking the villain he had fled from in St. Louis would surely show up soon, then I was two hundred pages into it, thinking the same. Then I get to the climax and it seemed constructed solely to set up a sequel, so I felt cheated, and I am certainly not going to spend another 300+ pages churning the same ground like a luckless prospector hoping for a pay out, I'm going to cut my losses right here.

Karyn Niedert says

I was provided the opportunity to read "Glorious" by Jeff Guinn by Goodreads, and wish to thank them and the author/publisher for this book.

Genre: Western/Historical Fiction

Series: Standalone (as of May 2014)

Summary: Cash McLendon is a self-serving gent, having grown up poor and neglected by an alcoholic father in 1870's St. Louis. His love for beautiful and smart Gabrielle is abandoned when he is offered the chance to marry into a wealthy family. A tragic accident befalls the newlyweds, and Cash flees St. Louis before he's forced into an early grave.

Cash drifts west, hoping to reconnect with Gabrielle. He finds her in a dusty little bump in the road called Glorious in Arizona Territory. Cash attempts to win her back, making good friends and dangerous enemies which threaten Cash's chance at happiness and the livelihood of all the good folks in Glorious. In trying to be a better man, Cash finds that doing the right thing might be the end of him yet.

Review and Opinion: "Glorious" swept me right into the story from the first page. Guinn set an ominous tone early on, and it was easy to envision 1870's St. Louis and the dusty Western frontier. His character development of Cash McLendon continued throughout the book, making him an unlikely hero but a likeable character nonetheless. Readers will enjoy the banter between McLendon and the supporting characters. Guinn did a very good job in creating McLendon as a flawed human being who learned from his mistakes.

Glorious is described beautifully as a harsh outpost in the American West. The townspeople and prospectors are drawn out in vivid words, and by the time the story ends, readers will feel as if they have made some good friends in this frightening but exciting town. Although I'm not a huge fan of Westerns, I really did enjoy this book and plan to read Jeff Guinn's other novels.

FYI: Other books by Jeff Guinn

Manson: The Life and Times of Charles Manson

Go Down Together: The True, Untold Story of Bonnie and Clyde

The Last Gunfight: The Real Story of the Shootout at the O.K. Corral-And How It Changed the American West

The Autobiography of Santa Claus

How Mrs. Claus Saved Christmas

Our Land Before We Die

Cheryl says

I have mentioned many times before how much of a fan of Westerns that I am. Thus the reason that I was excited to get a copy of this book back when it was released. However when I started reading it, I was not feeling it as much as I had hopes for. So I stopped reading the book and forgot about it until recently. Thus I picked the book up again to start reading it. I only read a few more chapters before I put the book down but this time for good. There was nothing exciting about it or the people in it. The story seemed to move along slowly and the old world of Arizona was not given much details. Which I was most looking forward to.

Brooke says

It's hard for me to choose a star rating for this western. It has a pretty typical plot: small town in a territory has trouble with big businessman who wants to take over; outsider shows up and finds himself helping out. The writing is a little clunky at times. It's full of misogyny and casual racism, and there is a character with a learning disability who is misused. That's all typical for the 1880s, which is when this novel takes place, but it was still icky to read. However, I did enjoy it. I thought of it as an easy fluff read for when my brain needed a break. I really like westerns, and this is a decent one. I'm going to check out the next one in the series.

Paul says

I'm not a huge "Western" novel genre man, but I got this book at Barnes and Nobel (hard cover) for \$3.99 It started out ok, a little dull but ok. It grew into more dullness and tedium but it was ok. The characters were undefined (I was at page 200 and I could not remember any of the characters names). But still it was ok. After half way through I started reading just the beginnings of paragraphs (did not lose any elements of the plot or story). The characters were all very shallow and morally lost. There never was a climax in the story. And even though I'm almost finished I still was going to give it a 2.5 rating which I generally mark as a 3. but the ending was so utterly ridiculous and completely unrealistic (might as well been an alien martian man

or woman coming down to save the day) I came away feeling 'What a Waste of Time!' 2 stars is freaking generous! Now I know why this hard cover book was under 4 bucks!

David says

A traditional western with a solid focus on the characters and their relationships as they build a new community on the frontier.

Kay says

Very disappointing book. This book had interesting characters and decent plot but it didn't come together for me. It was predictable and slow paced. I did finish reading the book, but my heart wasn't in it. Recently I had read Larry McMurtry's book *The Last Stand Saloon*, which was sooooo much better.

Mal Kelly says

Though I did like the story as a whole, this book left me wanting to find a Louis L'Amour title that I've not yet read. Given the time period, and his previous history, one would think that the main character would be more adaptable to western living. Also, the trap that was sprung at the end didn't seem totally plausible when you take into account all that had gone before. Down the road I may wish to dive into the sequel and see what happens next to Cash McClendon. We shall see.

Joel Lantz says

It was such a great book right up to the last page. Nothing like finishing a book and having absolutely no idea what becomes of most of the characters.

Lori says

I was a goodreads firstreads winner of the book "*Glorious: A Novel of the American West*" This turned out to be a pretty good book. It takes place mostly in the 1870s. the main character is Cash McLendon. He grew up poor always having to find a way to survive. some of the choices he made for survival while growing up involved betraying those who trusted him. When He meets Rupert Douglas a wealthy Industrialist, he is taken in eventually forced to marry Mr.Douglases daughter. a tragedy happens and McLendon must leave. He ends up in *Glorious* a small town in Arizona territory. He wants to find Gabrielle a young woman he knew and cared about in St. Louis where he grew up. He had heard that Gabrielle, his former girlfriend has moved to *Glorious* with her father. Most of the book takes place in *Glorious* a tiny town in the middle of nowhere. McLendon quickly makes friends with the town people, also hoping to rekindle a romance with Gabrielle.

A lot more goes on in this book. many prospectors arrive to try and find silver that is rumored to be in the area. A wealthy man by the name of MacPherson, a greedy wealthy man who intends on taking over the tiny town of Glorious. add to this some colorful characters from the town.the rumor of apache Indians being nearby. this makes for a good story. I like Historical books that take place in different eras. Jeff Guinn gives a good description of what the town of Glorious may have been like during the 1870s. A interesting read with good characters.

Alex Weirich says

The book Glorious is a good book about the Wild West. Cash McLendon is the main character of the book. He is the son of an alcoholic and he had a difficult life. He grew up on the streets in St. Louis, Missouri. When he got older he made himself a success and met and married the daughter of an important and very rich man named Rupert Douglass. Something very bad happens and Cash runs away to the West after finding out an old girlfriend and her father have a store in a small mining town. He tries to hide out there, but Rupert Douglass and his men go searching for him.

I think this is a good book for young adults to read as it has action, drama, and adventure. If you like stories that involve the Wild West and suspense, this is the book for you. It has great locations and paints a good picture of what the mining towns and the settlement of the Old West was really like. The characters are very interesting and played a great role in the story and bringing the West to life.

Anne says

Total disclosure: I am not a fan of Old West stuff. I jumped at the chance to interview Jeff Guinn because I loved "Manson" so much. But I read "Glorious" so I could at least say I read it and not insult him.

Boy, am I ever glad I read it. I love it! Cash McLendon is now one of my favorite protagonists -- an heroic but flawed fellow. The women in the book are some of the strongest you'll ever meet -- especially Chinese immigrant Sydney "Doc" Chau. What a gutsy broad she is!!

I can honestly say that, although the ending was totally satisfying, I didn't want it to be over. I could have read about these people and the little town of Glorious for a whole lot longer. Luckily for me, at least Cash McLendon will be back.

You can hear my interview with Jeff Guinn here:
<http://anneholidaysbookblog.blogspot...>

William Howle says

This is a tiresome book and if I was not so stubborn, would have stopped halfway through. The book drags

on and the ending leaves you hanging. I am a fan of western books and this is a sad excuse. I understand a sequel has been written, the cover praise falls into the category of "fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me" therefore no sequel for me.

Brian Krouse says

Huh, an interesting read.

Let's start with, I thought about the story a lot when I wasn't reading it. I wanted to find out what was coming. I feel like the ending was too sudden though.

JG says

I loved this...I love westerns. It was a very slow moving book but the characters were interesting. The characters encountered a lot of tragedies and difficulties. It was a good depiction of frontier life. The ending was a little abrupt and this surprised me. I am hoping this is an indication of a sequel.
