



Redeye

Clyde Edgerton

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In a masterful feat of tale-spinning and legend-making, the bestselling author of *Raney* and *Walking Across Egypt* has taken his ear for dialogue and his eye for detail to America's Wild West. Set in the turn-of-the-century mesa lands of the Colorado-Utah border, *Redeye* tells a tale of American expansionism, opportunism, religious fanaticism, and wide-eyed adventure.

Redeye Details

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Author : Clyde Edgerton

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From Reader Review Redeye for online ebook

Melki says

1857's horrific Mountain Meadows Massacre - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountai...> - was mentioned in some detail in Mark Twain's *Roughing It*, and reading that made me want to learn more on the subject. I remember reading about the incident for the first time in Edgerton's book and decided to open this one again. Turns out, this is not really about the day when Brigham Young ordered an attack on a wagon train, but instead about the fictitious Eagle City Shootout of 1892. Most of the novel is concerned with introducing the players in the later event, among them a school-marmish single gal, a British archeologist, a man hilariously attempting to perfect mortuary science and an old bounty hunter who uses his dog, Redeye, as a weapon.

While still a worthwhile read, this was not nearly as good as I'd remembered, so, YOINK, there goes a star.

One plus - in yet another example of how one book leads to another, the addenda has made me add Jack London's 1915 novel *The Star Rover* to my to-read list.

It never ends . . . and that makes me so, so happy.

Michael Economy says

I think this was the only book that was assigned reading in high school that I remember enjoying. It also wasn't directly assigned, the teacher gave us a list of books or authors (don't remember) and since I didn't know any of them I showed my mom and she picked one.

It was pretty cool cause before that point I guess I really didn't know that i could really enjoy reading the same kinds of books as my mom (we still maintain very different tastes in books, but there is some overlap).

That said... I really don't remember a whole ton about this book, other than the converging plot lines/characters and the dog, but i do remember liking it a lot!

Judi says

This is a humorous novel of Quakers, Mormons, Indians, a bounty hunter and his red-eyed dog. The book is styled as a "written guidebook" of the Mesa Largo Tourist Expedition including the complete history of The Eagle City Shootout of 1892. Cleverly the tour we are about to embark takes place in 1905 so it treats the events of 1892 as history. Yet by telling the story only 13 years later allows a naivete that could not be pulled off if one had to speak in our own "modern day" voice. Maybe it's the old director in me, but as I read the book I envisioned a group of actors on a sparse stage with maybe a wagon wheel and a painted background, dressed in period clothing, taking turns as they each tell pieces of the story of the "actual events." Edgerton's skill is to set up a sentence so that it is entirely truthful to its owner, but when actually read or said aloud, it is hysterical. In this way he jabs at the idiosyncrasy of religion, the mortuary business, dog training and the

tourism business.

Despite the humor, Edgerton is covering some serious territory. In 1857, 120 Arkansan emigrants heading for California were massacred in the the South West corner of Utah. The event became known as the Mountain Meadows Massacre. Although the Mormons tried to make it look like the Indians were to blame, this massacre was led and executed by the Mormons. Fortunately for the Mormons, this event missed the history books because of the Civil War. It's interesting technique to juxtapose such a startling event with this a light hearted setting. The second story line is nearly as upsetting as we follow the first expedition into the cliff dwellings in the Mesa Largo. The disregard for the artifacts and the desire to profit is not new news, but it sure gives a sense of helplessness as we watch the entrepreneur Blankenship scheme up the first American roadside attraction. Although, some of the scenes are really funny.

Gina says

I've read virtually everything Clyde Edgerton has published, and Redeye is in the top 3. He nails the coupling of Faulknerian voicing coupled with dirt farm banter. My favorite chapter is writtten in Redeye's own words...

Kristi Lamont says

Well. I'm not sure what I just read. And I'm willing to bet a nickel that that is how a lot of people felt after they read In Memory of Junior, also by Clyde Edgerton, and I just loved that one. So, let's just say that while there was some really good writing in this, it didn't resonate with me story-wise. And move on.

Beki says

Entertaining read. Great use of multiple voices to tell an ever-revealing story. Unreliable narrators abound. Gets a bit slow in places, but is carried through by interesting and unique characterizations. Not at all a "typical" western, but worth reading if for no other reason (and there are other reasons) than to see a "literary" treatment of genre conventions in a way that honors the genre rather than rendering them (the conventions, not the genre) unreadably boring.

Katrina says

This is set up like the reader is going on an expedition and in between gives the history of what previously occurred at the expedition site. Talks about the early days of mortuary science, mormon wars, and the early explorations of the cliff dwellings out in the desert--all with a humorous twist.

Sam Slaughter says

While the writing itself is fine, everything else about this book is poorly done. Edgerton does not create any emotional investment in his characters and, for much of the novel, the plot is thrown at you like a Pollack painting.

Mark says

Clyde Edgerton is definitely one of my favorite authors. He's got a deceptively straightforward style which makes an immediate impression of trueness on the surface but reveals further layers of meaning beneath. REDEYE is a departure for him since most of his stories are set in North Carolina but he's clearly at home here too. I loved the concept and structure of the book and the narrative passages are genius. Made me want to live in the world of its pages. (And I don't particularly like Westerns!) Felt like I was submerged in a much larger novel without the 300 extra pages. Bravo!

Lana says

Book Club Selection-NC authors

First time reading Clyde Edgerton & this is a "kick in the pants" western story. Although humorous, he brought up history regarding a massacre caused by Mormons & Indians. The discussion on this book will be interesting. Looking forward to it. I give it 3.5 stars.

Kest Schwartzman says

It would take real effort and skill to make this story horrendously boring. Unluckily for us, Mr. Edgerton has that skill, and made that effort.

Melissa says

I am not really a fan of westerns, but I was browsing the mystery section in the library and fortuitously came across this book, which was mis-shelved (M, W, they are close enough, aren't they?). It takes place in one of my favorite parts of the world, southwestern Colorado. The novel has a little bit of everything: history, archeology, romance, humor, economics, technology, medicine. Despite the fact that the catalyst of the book's events is the horrific Mountain Meadows massacre, the book manages to be light-hearted in tone without making light of that tragedy. It builds slowly through the viewpoints of several different and disparate characters to a mostly satisfying conclusion. Very enjoyable.

Catherine says

Highly recommended by DW (and therefore likely a book I would like), but I simply could not stay with the story. It felt like more work than it was supposed to be. Maybe it will seem funnier at a later date.

Kirtes Calvery says

Fluffy Fun Creative Novel

The author creates a cadre of unusual and often humorous characters joined in a little mystery and surprising intrigue. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

John Ashline says

This is the first of Clyde Edgerton's novels that I have read. I must admit...I really enjoyed it. It is presented to readers as a pamphlet explaining a trip that the reader is embarking on.

He introduces a cast of characters through some of their own journal entries. These characters all took, at a point in the novel, the same trip the reader is about to take.

On their trip, a first embarking on it, there is a tragedy that is hinted at; a shoot-out. The novel leads to this moment, and doesn't fail to entertain along the way.

Edgerton's cast is varied, and well-realized. As a western novel, most of them are quite colorful! The place they live, a western front in Colorado, is just as colorful!

I greatly enjoyed this funny western jaunt, and will see what else Edgerton has written.
