



Tales Behind the Tombstones: The Deaths and Burials of the Old West's Most Nefarious Outlaws, Notorious Women, and Celebrated Lawmen

Chris Enss

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Tales Behind the Tombstones tells the stories behind the deaths (or supposed deaths) and burials of the Old West's most nefarious outlaws, notorious women, and celebrated lawmen. Readers will learn the story behind Calamity Jane's wish to be buried next to Wild Bill Hickok, discover how and where the Earp brothers came to be buried, and visit the sites of tombs long forgotten while legends have lived on.

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Carrie says

I picked this up at the library because it looked like an interesting read. Wrong. I skipped through it and read some of the stories - only the ones that looked interesting to me. I think this one was better left on the library shelf, however.

Lisa says

What an interesting book. The use of actual pictures and gravestones mixed with the stories of these characters of the old West was very helpful. Most of the people mentioned, I have never even heard of, but all the stories were just fascinating. It is not a hard read, found it in the young adult section, and it is not gruesome considering the content. Might want to be ready with trying to explain "women of ill repute" if you let your younger kids read this, but it was an interesting read of a celebrated period in American history.

Steve says

Interesting but really needs a good edit.

Mark Wilson says

Interesting

This is a series of short vignettes on the lives of various Western characters, and where they now lie. Necessarily uneven, but quite interesting.

Bunny says

Absolutely fascinating. Not only the stories of seemingly random people from the Wild West and the California gold rush, but I also learned things I never knew about famous named I've always heard, like Jesse James, Calamity Jane, and Wild Bill. Really a very neat book.

Warren says

"The deaths and burials of the old est's Most nefarious outlaws, notorious women, and celebrated lawmen." It

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also adds a few presumed innocents like Lilly Langtree and Lillian Russell.

Interesting book quite well researched. Author Enss does not judge but let's the reader, the contemporaries and the legal system of the day (when there was one) do the judging.

I usually hold a book's credibility suspiciously when the word "Tales" is part of the title. I think the research by Chris Enss, however, is quite credible and perhaps deserving of a more factual sounding title.

Enjoyable but occasionally sad with "tales" of children being killed while making their way west with their parents.

Marilyn says

I loved reading about the old west. I especially love the true history and backgrounds of all the characters who helped make this country the beloved place it became. Wish some of them were here today to get us back to what made this country great.

Truitt says

interesting snippet of some of the west's intriguing figures. I did not know of some of the names. if you are looking for in depth study of the west's populace, then this book will be a disappointment. however, this book gives you a general background which may pique your interest in further in depth reading in a character or two.

Gary Grubb says

Just a fun and relaxing little read. Although I did find some time-line errors on the author's part I wasn't that concerned. Just like the title... the fun in this read are the tales themselves, not perfection in every date and time.

As in any story I read about the white-man 'conquering' the west I have to just shake my head at the 'white-mans' take on how they seem to discover everything. What the 'white-man' really seems to do is destroy everything and anybody in their path.

Eryn says

It's okay, it's not a bad book, but feels several grades below what I'm used to reading (I'm a historian). If I knew a preteen who was interested in the Old West or history and dead people, I would recommend it to them. This book is a basic introduction to a lot of historical figures that are ingrained in American history (especially if you live west of the Mississippi). It would be good for kids.

Stacy says

(Non-fiction) This book has a couple dozen vignettes of people - famous as well as not - who were part of the "Old West". It's well-written, and sometimes even humorous, as well as slipping in a few history lessons here and there. Most, if not all, of the brief tales have photos included. Be aware that not all the tombstones themselves are located in the western U.S. That said, I enjoyed it, and would love to see more - especially state-specific books - like this.

JoyAnna says

Quick read, many short stories about the Old West. Photos of tombstones and I thought quite interesting overall. Kept me engrossed enough that I finished in one evening. Got it on Kindle and enjoyed. The title tells you all about what is in the book and a slice of history that I found very well done

Darel Krieger says

Good little book, quick history of many names you've known from the old west and many you may not have know.

How they came to be , what they did and where they met their demise.

Lori says

I would give this an almost four. I find cemeteries interesting. My spouse and I like to walk around the local cemeteries and look at the tombstones. there is such a history to them. This book talks about the tombstones of people who lived in the 1800s and died during this time or the early 1900s. Some of the people are well known, such as Billy the kid, Wyatt Earp, Calamity Jane,Custer,and Custer's wife.and many more famous people from that time. I think I have learned there really was that "wild west' that took place in the mid 1800s. A lot of men and even some women died from gunshot wounds. a lot of tales of gun slinging, robberies, a lot of deaths due to violence. some died on the Oregon trail, others during the gold rush of those days.

I liked some of the tales more than others. For example the woman who disguised herself as a man for 50 years and was one of the best stage coach drivers in the 1800s.There were plenty of stories of men and women who lived during this time era and their lives and how they died. there are pictures that go with some of the tales and even pictures of the tombstones and where they are located. Kind of a different book for me to read but pretty interesting. I read this on my kindle.I wish i had the actual book so I could turn to the pages.

Katie says

This was a great book of short stories about notorious characters from the Wild West. It was a fantastic, easy

read with stories only lasting a few pages. I can't wait to take a road trip and check out all these cemeteries and read more about these amazing people.
