



Some Desperado

Joe Abercrombie

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Tor.com is pleased to present “Some Desperado,” an exclusive reprint of a new story by Joe Abercrombie originally published in Dangerous Women.

As the sizzingly fast-paced and action-packed story that follows demonstrates, sometimes chasing a fugitive can be as dangerous for the pursuers as for the pursued—particularly when the quarry has no place left to run....

Joe Abercrombie is one of the fastest-rising stars in fantasy today, acclaimed by readers and critics alike for his tough, spare, no-nonsense approach to the genre. He’s probably best known for his First Law trilogy, the first novel of which, *The Blade Itself*, was published in 2006; it was followed in subsequent years by *Before They Are Hanged* and *Last Argument of Kings*. He’s also written the stand-alone fantasy novels *Best Served Cold* and *The Heroes*. His most recent novel is *Red Country*. In addition to writing, Abercrombie is also a freelance film editor and lives and works in London.

Some Desperado Details

Date : Published November 4th 2013 by tor.com

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Author : Joe Abercrombie

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From Reader Review Some Desperado for online ebook

Nimrod Daniel says

Disclaimer: Usually I don't like listening to audiobooks, because I find myself enjoying much more from reading, so probably it made me downrate it a bit.

I listened to this short story by Joe Abercrombie, which is a part of Dangerous women collection, mainly because I haven't read any of his works yet. (though I think that the main reason is probably the fact that these days I find myself spend too much hours in front of a screen, and I don't even consider reading on my kindle). The story was good and so was the writing, I had just one problem with - it felt like he took one scene out of a full book and just put it there. The story is very good but lacks a satisfying ending.

To conclude - I was impressed by Joe's skill, and I think that if he can maintain this level then his books should be great. In this case I give it 3.5-4/5.

Matt says

It's Abercrombie.

Stephen says

This was my first Abercrombie story. It's meant to be a fantasy but it reads like a western with no fantasy elements whatsoever. Although the writing was good, I didn't care for the story one bit. It seems to consist of unpleasant people doing unpleasant things. I didn't care about any of the characters and don't want to carry on reading about the central character, Sky. This story just didn't work for me.

Dana West says

I truly enjoy Joe Abercrombie's short stories, this one did not disappoint. Shy acts more with instinct than with consideration and that makes her a dangerous woman.

TL says

She was given a flailing instant aloft to consider the situation. Not a good one at a brief assay, and the impending earth gave her no time for a longer. She did her best to roll with the fall—as she tried to do with most of her many misfortunes—but the ground soon uncurled her, gave her a fair roughing up, and tossed her, flopping, into a patch of sun-shrivelled scrub.

Dust settled..

When you're down to small stakes, you have to play long odds.

The world's a mean bully, all right, and the lower down you are, the more it delights in kicking you.

Read the story here

Eric says

Considering how well known Abercrombie is for his lengthy novels, he did surprisingly well with this briefer format, a prequel of sorts to Red Country that introduces the character Shy South. Definitely worth a read before jumping into that novel, to a) see if you like the setting, and b) get acquainted with Shy ahead of the novel.

This story can be found for free on Tor's website here.

Milda Page Runner says

A Freebie at <http://www.tor.com/2013/11/04/some-de...>

Well, that's Abercrombie for you! :D

One moment I'm grinning at the black humour, then I'm admiring the beauty of the writing, then I'm holding my breath at the speed the events are unfolding and then laughing out loud at the comedy of it all. Rinse and repeat.

Giedre says

3.5/5

Quite good. I'm definitely up for more Abercrombie in the future.

?uboř says

dobre sa to ?íta, sú tam mrtvolky...a to je tak všetko :D

Althea Ann says

This story, lacking a greater context is neither sci-fi nor fantasy. It is 100% Western. A bad-ass but desperate bank robber is forced into a showdown with her former compatriots in a dusty ghost town. It's an excellent story, which does a great job of balancing extreme violence with sensitivity. [In that greater context; the main character here is the protagonist of Abercrombie's 'Red Country'; which I have yet to read, but it is definitely set in a fantasy world.] And I definitely plan on reading it.

Kassilem says

I've only read one other book by Abercrombie but he has a few other books I'd like to get to. Having said that this short story didn't really interest me all that much. It wasn't boring but I didn't invest in it. Perhaps it's just a lot harder to do so with a story so short. I still think Abercrombie is only a mediocre writer at this point but I'll give him a few more chances before I make a final decision on how I like his books.

Joel says

It's Abercrombie, even though shockingly little happens, even by short story standards. His writing is magical, and his sense for action and emotions is top notch.

Orient says

I like it when a helpless woman kicks the bad big men's asses. It was a little bit different from the "Two's a company", maybe lighter, but the thing that made me uncertain about this book is that it is the opener to stories about dangerous women. The thing is that I can't think about Shy as a dangerous woman. Daredevil, bold or rash, and with a bit of luck for sure. She is only fatal to the villains who wanted her dead.

Siobhan says

Some Desperado is a fun short story by Joe Abercrombie.

I'll be the first to admit it is not my favourite of his short stories, but it is a fun one. Whilst set in the First Law world, such a thing is not really obvious in the context we're given – because, in truth, in terms of context we're given very little. It reads more as a western than a fantasy read. The only reason I know for sure that it is set in the First Law world is because the story can be found in the Sharp Ends short story collection.

It's a case of the pursued outsmarting the pursuers, a case of the little man winning even if they don't win much. Whilst I could easily say more, I won't. Just go and read it; it won't take you long and it is worth it.

Dale Pearl says

This review is a long time in coming.

I read this tale from two separate sources and I found it very interesting to find the edits between the two.

Enhances the education of one Dale Pearl

First source is the mentioned Dangerous Women

Second source is from King Joe's website: <http://www.tor.com/2013/11/04/some-de...>

I believe that this short story will also be in his new 2016 collection as well. Curious to see if there will be additional modifications.

Who else writes like this? There is none. Not a single other. And who else can away with writing like:

Her own breath was her only company, echoing in the emptiness, hard on the out, ragged on the in, almost painful down her throat. The breath of someone scared near the point of an involuntary shitting and all out of ideas.

Not pretty. That is not even in Abercrombie's dictionary. No, instead, he goes for the wide strokes of painting dark and broken characters. Abercrombie succeeds always in spades with the development of his characters. He writes in such a way as to make the characters fit logically into his world. So much so that we find ourselves feeling the same things that his minions of characters feel.

My reading journey has taken me long and far. Joe Abercrombie sticks out. When I discipline myself to the point of being able to write my own novel don't be terribly surprised to see his influence.
