



Death Valley Scotty

Robert Carter

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Winner of B.R.A.G Medallion.

Around the beginning of the 20th Century, Walter E. Scott - Scotty to his friends - was passing through Death Valley, California, when he happened upon a dead man. Beside the corpse was a dog dying of thirst, and in the man's pocket was a piece of rock glittering with pure gold ...

So begins one of the most endearing tales to come out of the American West.

Death Valley Scotty is a tightly crafted story that follows the life of a loveable rogue through more ups and downs than you'll find in the Sierra Nevada. See how his luck changes as his plans start to unravel. Follow him as he works himself out of yet another tight corner and stays one step ahead of the law. Who knows what will happen next? "Death Valley Scotty" is reminiscent of that famous Western "True Grit." It has the uplift of "It's a Wonderful Life."

Set in a time when freedom seemed easier to find, this is a read that will surely make you smile.

Read this classic and acclaimed American historical novel to find out more about the adventures and drama that led to the creation of Scotty's Castle in Death Valley.

Death Valley Scotty Details

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From Reader Review Death Valley Scotty for online ebook

Christoph Fischer says

"Death Valley Scotty" by Robert Carter is an excellent story as well as a brilliant piece of story-telling. It gives a very authentic feel to the setting, the US West between Death Valley and California, at the beginning of the 20th century. With great command of language and well researched historical details Carter transports us to the past with amazing ease.

The story follows Walter Scott, or Death Valley Scotty, an actual real historic figure; a cowboy, trickster of sorts, entertainer and friend of Albert Mussey Johnson, a rich but disabled business man. 'Scotty' happens upon a dead man with some gold on him and with a series of confidence tricks and high risks - plus the financial aid of Albert Johnson - he led a life of gaming and media manipulation that is truly unbelievable. Spinning the rumour mill he built himself a reputation as rich entrepreneur, and amongst other tricks he became a legend for convincing the locals that he had build the infamous Death Valley Castle in the Grapevine Canyon with the proceeds of his alleged gold wealth.

The books sparks with great dialogue and more amusing tales about the life of Scott and Johnson, while adding true historic detail.

Scenes in the court room, descriptions of life and travel in death valley before air conditioning, press culture are amongst many strong points of the book.

The two main characters, Scott and Johnson, are an unlikely pair of friends and Carter does an excellent job at exploring their bond. One has the charisma, the other the money. Two men as different as night and day, from different worlds and with different visions - who shared a dream.

This was a true find for me, an interesting read and good entertainment.

Angus Watson says

Economically written, yet effectively evokes the fascinating period of early twentieth century western USA. A good read for anybody, a must for anyone who has visited and appreciated Death Valley.

Krystal says

This book was a bit hard to get into, I at first couldn't tell if Scotty was a con-man or really stupid. It got better as the end came near. I learned a lot of info about prospecting in California during the gold rush. Other than that it was a very dry read.

Valerie Caraotta says

Despite the reality that this is a true story, numerous times you will ask yourself how Walter E Scott, better known as Scotty, could continually live a life of deception in the way he presented himself to the public. Rare in character and bold in pursuit, his deceptive schemes would afford him thousands of dollars on a Peerless Mine that never existed but attracted the attention of wealthy businessmen.

You might say Scotty was determined to live in the moment of all the riches he accrued while liberally giving away huge amounts of money and gaining increasing popularity. The higher up you are however the

harder you fall and the deception would be revealed in the courtroom.

It is not an ending you would expect however as wealthy Albert M. Johnson found the friendship and adventure in Scotty refreshing to him. Johnson, a Christian man may have met the provision of God in ways money could not buy through Scotty. So true is it that good friendship and companionship cannot be set to a price tag. Though ironic to many how the very wealthy can find a common thread with the very poor, truth is that we all long to laugh unabandonedly and to leave the worry and stresses of life behind if even for a brief period.

A castle that remains today to tourists in Death Valley is far more than a gigantic structure. It is an embodiment of truth that when we all strip off our masks and become who we are to the core, that we can find ourselves in union with others that defy typical stereotypes.

In creative written form, allow award winning author Robert Carter to take you away to an adventure you will never forget. You may temporarily lose yourself but come away thoroughly satisfied with the mission. Amaze yourself how situations in life can turn into manifold blessings yet to be realized.

I highly recommend this book along with the other great works from Robert Carter.

Rachel says

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads in exchange for a honest review. I really enjoyed this book, I'm really not a big fan of westerns Death Valley Scotty is a GREAT exception. Hollywood needs to jump on board and make a movie out of this one!

Sweetpea says

I received a free copy of this book from the GoodReads First Reads program in exchange for an honest review. Great storytelling based on actual events form history. Very enjoyable read, would recommend.

Mirella says

One of the most colorful, intriguing, and notorious men of 19th and 20th century America is a man named Walter Edward Perry Scott, who became known as Death Valley Scotty. At the age of 11, he left home to ranch with his two brothers in Nevada until he joined Buffalo Bill Cody 19s Wild West Show as a performer. When he met and fell in love with Miss Ella Milius, they moved to Colorado to begin a gold mining operation. When it failed, Scotty tried to return to the Wild West Show, but they turned him away.

It was then that Scotty turned to being a con man, and therein came his successes. He conned a New York business man into investing in a fake gold mine. Using the newspapers to gain notoriety and fuel speculation, he kept his investors on the hook with lies. When they began to doubt him and they demanded to see the gold as proof, the bag of gold was supposedly stolen. Thousands of dollars were lost in the investment.

Scotty kept his notoriety sparked when he claimed he could break the cross country train speed record and successfully broke the record by mere minutes, earning him coverage on all the front pages of the newspapers at the time.

Scotty continued with numerous other mining cons, never confessing or admitting his falsehoods. Soon, to keep up his charades, he began stealing from other mines to prove he had the ore to prove his story. He landed in jail because he was sued by his creditors based on his outrageous claims of wealth and mining. He even built a huge castle in Death Valley on land disputed not to be owned by him.

I had never heard of Death Valley Scotty, but by the time I finished reading the novel, I gained a strong understanding of the man, his passion for life, and his bold character. Robert Carter 19s Novel about Scotty 19s life brings to life the motivations and dreams of this colorful historical figure. Sticking close to the facts and highly researched, Carter 19s fascination for Scotty highlights every page. The book is detailed and well written, and although many of Scotty 19s activities are definitely criminal, Carter balances this by showing us what motivates and drives this infamous character, giving the reader lots to sympathize with. I definitely recommend this book to lovers of American History.

My crazy book says

Can you have questions? because it is a book that leaves you with many.

Ralph says

It's much more difficult to write a biographical novel than it is a biography because life is not a story. So the writer who wants to tell the story of someone's life, as opposed to merely presenting facts and episodes, has to bring in such storytelling tools as pacing, conflict, theme, climax, and dialogue that is very unlike the meaningless and meandering dialogue of everyday life. More than anything else, though, he has to capture the personality and soul of the subject, the very essence of the individual, all the while not straying too far from the facts.

Robert Carter has done an admirable job in this book of capturing the life of Walter Scott, AKA Death Valley Scotty, who cut a colorful swath through the American tapestry around the turn of the last century. To some people he was the ultimate entrepreneur, creating something from nothing, while others looked at that same talent and called him the consummate con-man. One thing for certain was that he was a man who embodied the spirit of American boldness, who lived his life with flair and abandon, and who in a land of tall tales was himself a tall tale. After reading this book, you might believe you actually knew Death Valley Scotty, which is as much a tribute to the life of a unique American as it is to Robert Carter's storytelling skills.

Jake Taylor says

This is a most delightful book. It is Americana at its best. Scotty's western-slang is precious and funny; "When you keep a coyote for a pet, you gotta think that someday he'll go wild on you." He also questions his time and place: "So many free schools, and yet so much ignorance in the land! I declare, I do not know what

to make of it.”

For some, I’m sure, Scotty was nothing more than a scoundrel, but after you read Robert Carter’s biographical account you will see a much more complex character, and you may end up liking him, as I did. There are many interesting phrases and sentences in the book, one explains ‘a kind of big fiddle’ while others give us good advice; for example, he feels that we all need: “A place you can go to think, be at peace with yourself, a place where you can listen to the quiet and let it heal your soul.” He was referring, of course, to the magnificent place we now know as Death Valley National Park located in Southern California and Nevada, where Toloache told Scotty “The Secret of Life”. I cannot tell it to you here, but rest assured, as soon as I’m done with this review, I will go and get me some –Oh, yes, you can buy it!– if you know where to go.

Great reading, you will love it! Five stars

Jake Taylor
