



The Trail Driver: A Western Story

Zane Grey

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From the best-selling novelist of the American West, comes a novel of romance, danger, and life along the trail.

After his first successful venture of moving 2,500 cattle along the infamous Chisholm Trail, Adam Brite couldn't resist the allure of a second drive. To prepare for his greatest and most dangerous prospect yet, Brite begins purchasing cattle at every possible opportunity he gets and searching for an able crew to aid him in the arduous journey from San Antonio to Dodge City. He recruits a diverse cast of characters all left penniless after the Civil War: Trail boss and veteran driver Joe Shipman; Alabama Moze, the cook; Hal Bender, a friendly brute; The Uvalde quintet, a strapping group all under the age of twenty; and Pan Handle Smith, a striking Texas outlaw who never sleeps.

As they begin their journey north, Brite looks over the vast western landscape and his men attempting to herd the thousands of cattle from afar. In spite of the awe-inspiring scene, he grows fearful that Indians or inclement weather may make the excursion too dangerous with such a limited amount of drivers. As Brite begins to doubt the operation, a mysterious, young drifter named Reddie Bayne rides into their camp, and Brite offers him a job. Shortly afterwards, two unwanted guests arrive at the camp searching for the boy, and Brite quickly realizes that Bayne is not what he seems.

In this classic western tale by Zane Grey, raging rivers, powerful storms, stampedes, treachery, trail rustlers, and Comanche Indian raiders threaten the outfit and their stock along the trail. However, the greatest surprise lies right within the outfit, when an unlikely heroine appears—a young girl disguised as a cowboy.

Skyhorse Publishing is proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in fiction that takes place in the old West. Westerns—books about outlaws, sheriffs, chiefs and warriors, cowboys and Indians—are a genre in which we publish regularly. Our list includes international bestselling authors like Zane Gray and Louis L'Amour, and many more. While not every title we publish becomes a *New York Times* bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

The Trail Driver: A Western Story Details

Date : Published November 29th 2016 by Skyhorse (first published 1931)

ISBN : 9781510701991

Author : Zane Grey

Format : Paperback 308 pages

Genre : Westerns, Fiction, Romance

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From Reader Review The Trail Driver: A Western Story for online ebook

Violet says

A great story by "the greatest novelist of the American West". This one is about the tough men and women who made their living by obtaining herds of cattle and driving them across large territories to be sold. To my mind it was a hard way to make a living. Some who started the drive were lost along the way. In addition to the regular wranglers, this story revolves around a teenage girl who pretends to be a young man when hiring on and her relationships with the men after she is found out. As with all of Zane Grey's stories, this is a nice tame one (1936).

Susan Reed says

Excellent story! Great descriptions.
Great action and characters.

John Shearer says

The Trail Driver

This story was a good read that has all the features of the old west, and then some. The author created a good look at what could happen on a trail drive.

Ashley says

Cheesy, and fraught with flashes of sexism and racism, this is classic Zane Grey, and still my greatest guilty pleasure as far as reading is concerned.

I love the way Grey writes about the geography of the land, and how connected his characters are to their natural environments. In this book, I appreciated the writing on buffalo hunters, and his description of the vast herds of Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. This is a piece of history that is often underemphasized, as the decimation of North American buffalo populations was one of the most horrible and destructive settler policies of colonization and cultural genocide.

Fredrick Danysh says

On his second trail drive of the season, trail boss Adam Brite starts having problems and become fearful. Along the route, a young man appears and is hired on but it turns out that he is not what he appears to be. Will the new man be a blessing or a curse.

Gregory Pierce says

I got through 3 chapters. The author attempts to write in country accents. It does not work. It only makes it tough to read.

Sharon Oliver says

Rip Roarin good fun

This is the first Zane Greg book I have ever read. I was very favorably impressed and looked forward to each chapter. The slang took a bit of getting used to, but after a while I was not even conscious of it. I will read more of his work.

David C. Martin says

How It Was in the West

The author described the situations and the characters vividly. You had to decide on everybody whether you liked them or not. Some were lovable, some were not. A plot typical of the times.

Beverley Davis says

The Trail Driver was one of the first books I read as a kid, and I loved it. In Texas Joe and Pan Handle we see the first pairing of what is now a popular theme, the good guy (Texas Joe) and his outlaw friend/the killer Angel. Zane Grey knew the men who populated his stories, some of them very old or descendents of the men who tamed the West.

Reddie Baine and Anne while hearing Joe speak of no good ideas coming from a pretty girl's head come up with the idea that keeps him and Pan from killing each other. Zane Grey takes stereotypes and blows them away. And Zane Grey loved his characters. He's sees the beauty in his young heros and heroines, their passions and sorrows.

When Trail Driver ended I was left wanting more. I wanted to know Pan's fate whether or not he stayed in touch with Joe and Reddie. and that is the mark of a great writer.

I've read it over and over....last month being maybe the 100th time I've read it since 1962

Helen Hoover says

Many unknown and unnamed heroes

Hard lives taken as a matter of course. Men and women who never knew that they would be the raw material of legend.

Jane says

I've read and enjoyed a number of Zane Grey novels, but this one is especially dated and problematic. Lots of encounters with "red devils" aka Native Americans who say things like "How." When the young heroine shoots an Indian, she says "I - I feel like a murderer." Well yeah, because you are one!

Three of the characters also suffer unnecessarily grim and pointless deaths a few pages before the end. Definitely not one I'll read again.

Janet Dalton says

To be a cpwboy.

I have never read such a detailed story of a cattle drive. I felt as if I was there and could see the action. Very good, enjoyed ot.
