



The Last Ride

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A novel of the American West narrates the story of a dying man's attempts to make peace with his daughter, their struggle to rescue his granddaughter from renegades and slave traders, and his lifelong search for inner peace.

The Last Ride Details

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Author : Thomas Eidson

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From Reader Review The Last Ride for online ebook

Anna Criswell says

Ugh so much death! Not a fan of the ending. I like things to be resolved!

Jillian says

LOVED this book. Gorgeous western writing, and the female protagonist simply leap off the page with such depth and strength that it makes you wonder what kind of incredible women Thomas Eidson has in his life to be able to write about them this way.

The Indian Sorcery and religion was fascinating, and made even better by the fact that there's a film version of this novel (The Missing).

Paul says

Watched the movie and decided to read the book. Much better than the movie. Very deep and emotional story with strong women protagonists. Not your typical western story with the guns and violence. A story of family love, hate and forgiveness.

Scott Underwood says

I had seen the movie way back when and really liked it., then I found the book just last year at a thrift store. Once I read this book , I watched the movie again. Hate the movie, love this book. No comparison! But isn't that the way of most books made into movies? This was a "can't put down" story that I, unfortunately, had to for various reasons, but this brought me nearly to tears a few time by the end. All that to say....highly recommended!

Erica says

I saw the movie titled The Missing years ago and LOVED IT! The movie was based off of this book. While a lot is the same (names, character personalities), the story is very different in much of the plot (with added characters that were left out of the movie). Most of the book was kind of slow going for me, but I think this is more due to the fact that I like short chapters that make me feel like I'm making tons of progress and can stop easily at many points without losing the pace of the chapter. Some chapters were 30-40 pages. I also felt that a lot of the story developed very slowly, but I am judging it based off of knowing the movie first. I really loved the end to this story and how Maggie and Jones found their peace. And I was surprised and pleased with his reasons he had to leave her as a child (I don't remember this being in the movie). Having a father who left me as a child, I've yearned for a moment like this, a validation or something. This book gave me that feeling. I love the movie and the book in different ways, if you haven't seen it yet I suggest you watch it (The Missing with Cate Blanchett and Tommy Lee Jones on Netflix). I love the ending in the book most

though. I'm going to re watch it now before I return the book to the library tomorrow. Definitely recommended.

Raro de Concurso says

Tengo impresiones encontradas con este libro. Por un lado me gustó la historia con el viejo indio al que todos desprecian y creen un loco, pero que luego, poco a poco, se va ganando la confianza de todos. La persecución, la búsqueda de uno mismo o de lo que realmente es al enfrentarse a los peligros del camino. También muy bien contado el dualismo religión india-religión católica. Así como el punto de vista indio, el odio mexicano y anglosajón hacia todo lo diferente, etc. Es decir, me gusta casi todo de la historia. Pero me chirría especialmente ese malvado indio cojo con superpoderes y casi indestructible. Contrapunto necesario, pero tan exagerado que deja de ser creíble. Una cosa es introducir a los "dioses indios" y la magia y las supersticiones, y otra muy distinta es intentar hacer Harry Potter en la frontera mejicana. A pesar de ésto, el libro es muy entretenido, y te engancha con tanta rapidez como lo que se tarda en arrancar una cabellera bien poblada.

Oscar says

Nuevo México, 1886. En una tormentosa tarde, Jones llega al rancho Baldwin, donde viven Brake, Maggie y sus tres hijos. Es un extraño anciano, blanco, pero con vestimentas indias, acompañado de su vieja montura, una mula y un perro. Desde el primer momento, el misterio acompaña a este hombre, y más cuando Maggie da muestras de haberle conocido anteriormente. A partir de cierto hecho, en el que tienen que ver los apaches, empezará una serie de aventuras, con ciertos tintes sobrenaturales.

‘La última galopada’ (The Last Ride, 1995), del norteamericano Thomas Eidson, es un magnífico western crepuscular, místico, violento en algunos momentos, pero que también hace hincapié en la redención, la fe y la esperanza. El enfrentamiento entre el cristianismo y el paganismo también está presente en la narración. Eidson escribe muy bien, y la traducción, a cargo de Marta Lila Murillo, es estupenda. También tiene adaptación cinematográfica, ‘Desapariciones’ (2003), a cargo de Ron Howard, interpretada por Tommy Lee Jones y Cate Blanchet. Magnífica novela.

Cphe says

This was a recommendation from a friend, very glad that I followed their recommendation and read this. Found it to be a bit of a tearjerker. Am partial to a good western and this book filled many of the boxes that I look for in the genre.

Samuel Jones is a man who walks between two worlds, he returns to make peace with his daughter after an absence of many years. When his grand daughter is kidnapped by Indians he sets out with his estranged daughter Maggie to find his missing grand daughter Lily.

This is a novel about prejudice, redemption, family and spirituality, both Native and Christian. It a story of forgiveness and love. Really enjoyed this. Well written and emotive.

Morpheus Reads says

This was a touching story full of so much heartbreak.

Samuel Jones, who had abandoned his white family 30 years before to live with an Apache woman, returns to his daughter, Maggie Baldwin, in order to make peace with her before he dies (of tuberculosis, I believe). She is not receptive. Maggie's husband is shot and one of her daughters is taken captive by renegade Apaches who have left the reservation. Even though Maggie wants nothing to do with Jones "or his heathen ways", she has no choice but to rely on him to help rescue the girl. This story is about the journey taken together and about the meaning of family, love and loyalty. There is also a thought-provoking spiritual component as well.

I wasn't totally fond of Maggie for several different reasons that didn't sit right with me. I understood where her anger and lack of forgiveness toward Jones came from, but her rudeness, lack of charity, and unceasing intolerance to his personal beliefs grated on me. I wanted him to tell her to, "Grow up!". I found her to be too selfish and coldhearted. She didn't seem to be overly affected by tragedies other people suffered in the quest to rescue her daughter. I also couldn't understand how she, as a mother, could keep sending her 10-year-old daughter off on her own out in the middle of the scorching desert and Apache country to boot. That just didn't make sense to me, especially considering that throughout all of their time traveling together they were trying to avoid being spotted by the Apaches and Mexican banditos who were causing so much trouble in the area.

I know the author was trying to honor how strong the pioneering women were, but I didn't get that from Maggie. I got it much more from her 10-year-old daughter. I would love to read a sequel about her life down the road and how she moves forward with the knowledge she's gained from Jones.

I found it interesting how Jones melded different facets of the various tribes he befriended over the years, which was evident in the combination of religious and ceremonial practices (prayers, chanting, smoke, burning sage, body paint, communication with animals, etc.) and the different pieces of clothing he wore i.e. some Apache, some Lakota Sioux, some Cheyenne, etc.. I am truly curious how different tribal nations would have looked at a "White Eyes" who did this. Would they be offended?

I really enjoyed this book. Other than my dislike for Maggie (which was the only thing about this book I didn't like because it distracted me), I enjoyed all the other characters, even the strange and evil Lame One. Well, I didn't LIKE him, but I enjoyed getting a peek into his head. That sure had the creepiness of a horror movie(!) but how the rest of the story was told really gave me the feel of a true old western.

Debbie says

I found the main character Jones frustrating as he remained a mysterious figure throughout the book and at times his lack of dialogue prevented the flow of the storyline. I found Maggie and Dot strong women but they needed more to do and there was a lot more potential with their development.

The Apache family was hurriedly introduced and interesting characters removed before we had a chance to get to know them.

I thought the lame one would have a more significant connection to the storyline and felt disappointed with the predictable outcome.

Interesting mystical look at Apache Indian Culture and beliefs and how they impact on western white man lives and prejudices.

Could have been a great book, but I found it just a good read.

Christine Beswick says

Gripping and moving, although very violent in places. A good recreation of the unforgiving world of the old West where mistrust between groups seems to be the order of the day and killing is the answer to the problem. The women of the novel are well realised - brave, strong and loyal.

Dennis Goshorn says

I was attracted to this book after watching the movie by the same name. Of course the book is different and better than the movie—but the story of forgiveness, healing and redemption is evident in both. If you don't want to spend the time reading the novel, then get the movie.

I love the Western genre, but this story could just as easily take place in modern day America. The west of the 1880s is merely the setting that the author choose.

Yeva says

This book impressed me enormously. Filled with pathos, it left me gasping at the depths it took me to emotionally. I loved it - hated it, hated the way it made me feel, and yet I couldn't stop reading it. I highly recommed this book.

Carl says

I first came across this story as a movie starring Tommy Lee Jones and Cate Blanchet and as a lover of westerns it became one of my favourites.

The story centres on an old man who finds his family after being away for about 30 years.

He is met with hatred from his daughter and curiosity from his granddaughters.

He is an old man who has become more Indian than white and has come home to die.

Circumstances intervene and one of the daughters is kidnapped by slave traders the gang is led by a rather nasty Indian known as the lame one, an Indian Shaman.

The old man (Jones) has one last task to do before he dies. He needs to rescue his granddaughter before she is violated and sold on as a slave.

He is dying on his feet, and with the help of his other younger granddaughter they set off to affect a rescue.

My problem is it was the film first and I really liked it.

The book is good but sometimes the detail drags it down, this is only my opinion.

One of the rare times that I thought the film was better than the book.

Oh well, still love westerns, books and films.
Now if only they could meld westerns and superheroes or westerns and sci-fi!
What! they did and both flopped!
Unbelievable!

Bernie says

En castellano editado por Valdemar. Arranque muy potente, aunque conforme avanza decae un poco. Buen libro. Recomendable lectura.
