



## SUSIE KNIGHT

### *Turn 'em Loose*

Knight Time Publishing International, \$20  
SusieKnight.com

I have been WWA host at November's International Western Music Association conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for 10 years.

One of the most pleasing aspects of that duty is seeing Susie Knight, IWMA female poet of the year in 2014 and 2016.

I have been trying to gather Susie into the WWA fold for a few years, so the first thing she said

when she saw me in November was "Ollie I haven't joined WWA yet, but I'm going to as soon as I get home." Then she gave me this CD.

Susie, who lives in Colorado, is a singer-songwriter as well as a poet. This album has 10 songs written and performed by Susie and a poem written by Jeff Carson and recited by Susie.

My favorite is the title cut, a fast moving two-stepper inspired by Oregon artist Dyrk Godby's picture of horses exploding out of a corral and informed by Susie's days of working on a South Dakota ranch in the 1980s.

Others I especially like are the love songs "Cowboy, Ride on Over" and "Just One O' Them Days" and "Out Toward the West," a tender song about aging and longing.

By the way, Susie, I'm happy and proud to note, did join WWA.



**OLLIE REED JR.**

## RUSTED SPURS WEST

### *Ridin', Ropin' & Rounders*

Rusted Spurs West, \$15  
dvdbob@denonco.net

I met Patti Hamel of the Arizona trio Rusted Spurs West at the most recent IWMA conference. Like Susie Knight, Patti had a CD, a collection of 14 cover songs, every one of which will hook lovers of Western music.

Besides Patti (accordion, lead vocals and harmony), the trio consists of Tex Hamel (guitar, lap steel, lead and harmony) and Slim Denoncourt (bass, lead and harmony).

The songs include standards such as "Along the Navajo Trail," "Cool Water" and "Red River Valley" and, my top choices, "New Star Over Texas," by Leslie Satcher and Vince Gill, and, because I'm a sucker for cowboy songs, "My Ropin' Days Are Done" by Tim Stafford and Robert G. Starnes.

\*\*\*

E-mail Ollie at [oreedjr@gmail.com](mailto:oreedjr@gmail.com) and send CDs to him at P.O. Box 2381, Corrales, NM 87048.

## *The Hellbenders*

Kino Lorber  
Blu-ray, DVD, \$29.95, \$19.95  
KinoLorber.com

In 1964, 34 Euro-Westerns were released to international cinemas. Sergio Corbucci directed two, *Minnesota Clay* (starring Cameron Mitchell) and *Massacre at Grand Canyon*. Sergio Leone directed only one, *Magnificent Stranger* (aka *A Fistful of Dollars*), and a fuse was lit that set off an explosion that blew apart the classic tropes of the typical "American" Western and changed the way foreign-produced genre films were financed and distributed.

Corbucci and Leone came from the same place: the humble beginnings of Italian production where lira and dollars could be scooped up for a horror film or a muscle-man epic. Leone had worked on Robert Aldrich's *Sodom and Gomorrah* before making *The Colossus of Rhodes*. Corbucci's genre history stretched back to the early 1950s with dozens of writing and directing credits, including *Samson vs. The Vampires* and the atmospheric *Castle of Blood*.



**C. COURTNEY JOYNER**

The argument over which Sergio created the Euro-Western template has been as bloody as a Corbucci gunfight, with Leone edging out for his far-reaching influence. But if Corbucci ran second, he made the most of it by creating Westerns that expressed a darker, raggedly violent world view while being fearlessly, and humorously, political. *Django* (1966), starring Franco Nero, would be the box-office proof of Corbucci's vision. The bleak film, which spawned more than 30 unofficial "sequels," established the filmmaker as his own force in the international market.

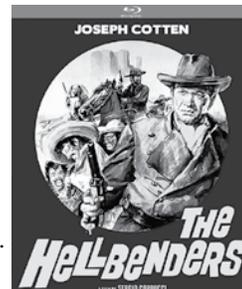
Corbucci expanded his visual canvas by directing *The Hellbenders* the same year. Written by Albert Band, it's the story of a Confederate officer (Joseph Cotten) who refuses to recognize Robert E. Lee's surrender and leads his sons on a quest of robbery and killing to fund a new army to destroy the Union.

Despite a tight budget, the film's opening assault on a convoy is a finely tuned, operatic action sequence that impresses, as does Cotten, whose grim determination and streak of psychopathic pride make him a formidable villain. The other credits read like a Euro-Western who's who, with Enzo Barboni, who would direct the *Trinity* films, contributing beautiful photography and Ennio Morricone delivering a lively score.

*The Hellbenders* is a sketchbook of achievements to come. It isn't *Compañeros* or Corbucci's masterwork, *The Great Silence*, but rather a solid Euro-Western that stands shoulders above the usual fare. Kino's Blu-ray gives the film the attention it deserves.

\*\*\*

C. Courtney Joyner writes in many formats, including screenplays, fiction and nonfiction. E-mail him at [olcourt@yahoo.com](mailto:olcourt@yahoo.com).



## POETRY

### WILLA CATHER

#### *April Twilights*

University of Nebraska Press  
Trade paperback, 150 pages, \$16.95  
NebraskaPress.unl.edu

Lovers of Willa Cather's work might find pleasure in reading *April Twilights*, her first book. Published in 1903, this book of poetry preceded her first novel, *O Pioneers!*, by nine years. Not a practitioner of free verse, she uses familiar end-of-line rhyme schemes in each of the 39 poems. Heavily parsed with a new introduction by Robert Thacker and the lengthy original introduction by Bernice Slotte, a student can learn much about Cather and her poetry. In addition, the reader will find a table of contents, notes on the poems, an appendix of other verses and a bibliography, all of which is packed into a slim volume.

– Lynn Bueling

### RED SHUTTLEWORTH

#### *Anymore*

Moses Lake Steel Supply  
Chapbook, no price listed  
PoetRedshuttleWorth.blogspot.com

#### *And the Road to Wagontire*

Moses Lake Steel Supply  
Chapbook, no price listed  
PoetRedshuttleWorth.blogspot.com

The first chapbooks of poems published since Spur Award-winner Red Shuttleworth's near-death experience after a bout with sepsis reveal a more reflective outlook yet with his patented wit, hard-nosed approach and unique word choices. "Glued back to life, I ask a nurse for a shot of Wild Turkey ..." "I miss stuttering neon lights, point-of-departure showgirls, crease-torn maps." "I meditate on the surprises of love .../ dawn nests of speckle-white birds." Shuttleworth's fans will be pleased with these seven new poems in *Anymore* and five in *And the Road to Wagontire*.

– Johnny D. Boggs

## NONFICTION

### GARY CLAYTON ANDERSON

#### *Massacre in Minnesota: The Dakota War of 1862, the Most Violent Ethnic Conflict in American History*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 384 pages, \$32.95  
OUPress.com

*Massacre in Minnesota* delves into the complexities of the 1862 Dakota War. Misunderstandings, duplicity, greed, cultural differences and the Civil War all contributed to the tragedy that left 600-700 white settlers dead and an entire American Indian nation expelled from Minnesota. Gary Clayton Anderson's depth of research is to be commended. *Massacre in Minnesota* should be in every library and on the bookshelf of anyone interested in Civil War history, American Indian history or the frontier history of Minnesota. Kudos for a wonderful read.

– Candace Simar

### CHARLES BOWDEN

#### *Dakotah: The Return of the Future*

University of Texas Press  
Hardcover, 169 pages, \$24.95  
UTPress.utexas.edu

In his turbulent lifetime, Charles Bowden found a friend at the University of Texas Press. With his untimely death in 2014, the press committed itself to publish heretofore unreleased books and to continue reissuing his already published work. This is the first of the unpublished works. Bowden's writing reflects his inner drive for social and economic justice. A fierce defense of human rights, desert environment and the pursuit of truth, this is a welcome addition to his canon.

– Vernon Schmid

### PEG BOWDEN

#### *A Stranger at My Door: Finding My Humanity on the U.S./Mexico Border*

Paperback, 238 pages, \$8.95  
Peer Publishing

In December 2003, Peg Bowden (yes, sister of Charles) saw a bedraggled

figure making his way through the cold rain on the other side of the arroyo next to her house. The figure turned out to be a Guatemalan national named Juan Carlos. Peg did the things we should all hope we would do in such a situation. She got him dry clothes, food and a place to sleep. Soon she is trying to help get him to Nashville, Tennessee, where he has family – which pits her against the Border Patrol, ICE and coyotes who prey on crossers trying to make their way in the United States. Carlos escapes, gets caught and gets deported. But Peg does not give up. She takes a trip to Guatemala and visits his home and family. Such a simple thing as a trip to an immigrant's home illuminates the plight of immigrants trying to find a better life in the United States. This is a lovely book, that should be read.

– Thomas Cobb

### BILL BROYLES and BRUCE J. DINGES (editors)

#### *America's Most Alarming Writer: Essays on the Life and Work of Charles Bowden*

University of Texas Press  
Hardcover, 337 pages, \$29.95  
UTPress.utexas.edu

Charles Bowden's legacy as a journalist, social commentator and lucid explorer of the underbelly of the borderlands is clearly illuminated by the many friends and colleagues contributing to this volume. Many reporters face threats, myself included, but few have narco gangs set a price on their heads. Bowden did. Always sitting with his back to a wall sounds like an Old West story, but in his case, it was a reality. These essays reveal a man's passion for the environment and for justice, a love of desert and its peoples. An exciting and sometimes troubling life is captured in this exploration of the life of a writer.

– Vernon Schmid

### STEVE CARVER (author, photographer)

#### *Western Portraits: The Unsung Heroes & Villains of the Silver Screen*

Edition Olms  
Hardcover, 264 pages, \$50  
Edition-Olms.com

Steve Carver, a professional photographer and sometimes movie director (*Big Bad Mama*, *Lone Wolf McQuade*) for Roger Corman, pays tribute to Western characters of film and television – from *The Magnificent Seven*'s Horst Buchholz and TV veteran Bruce Boxleitner to a who's who cast of supporting players like Denver Pyle, Morgan Woodward, L.Q. Jones, Clu Gulager and many others. Co-author C. Courtney Joyner offers a chapter, "Carved on Film: Western Movies and the Faces that Made Them," in this handsome coffee-table book sure to please diehard fans of Western films.

**MICHELLE DELANEY**

*Art and Advertising in Buffalo Bill's Wild West*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 235 pages, \$45  
OUPress.com

Michelle Delaney studied, assessed and provided illustrative photographs representing numerous posters promoting 30 years of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Wild West. She explains how Cody and his team took personal interest in the message of each advertisement and why they chose the lithographic companies of Hoen, Courier, Enquirer and Strobridge. Her book explains the significant differences in colors, backgrounds and fonts used to depict performers, like Cody himself, Annie Oakley, the Indians and various acts, including Summit Springs and

the Rough Riders, as enticements to potential audiences. As Delaney writes, Cody's poster collection "documents the way in which performances presented both the memory and the myth of the American West to vast audiences across the United States and Europe." It's a book to be appreciated for Delaney's informative details and historic significance of the photos.

– Sandra Sagala

**LYNN DOWNEY**

*Arequipa Sanatorium: Life in California's Lung Resort for Women*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Trade paperback, 302 pages, \$24.95  
OUPress.com

Much like the illnesses suffered by victims and rescuers from the collapse of the twin towers in 2001, so too did survivors of the San Francisco earthquake and fires in 1906 develop ailments from the dust and ash they breathed in. There were few places where women of modest means could receive treatment. Here the author tells of the founding and operation of the Arequipa Sanatorium.

– Lynn Bueling

**CHRIS ENSS**

*According to Kate: The Legendary Life of Big Nose Kate, Love of Doc Holliday*

TwoDot Books  
Hardcover, 169 pages, \$24.95  
GlobePequot.com

This is one nifty little book. There have always been little-known characters associated with long-remembered people and events in history, and Mary Katherine Horony is no exception. Cruelly known as "Big Nose Kate," she was the companion of John Henry "Doc" Holliday and was by his side throughout many of the episodes he is most famously associated with. In her later years, she told the story of her life as it related to those events, and to her personally. You'll enjoy this retelling of that story.

– Rod Timanus

**NANCY MARTINA**

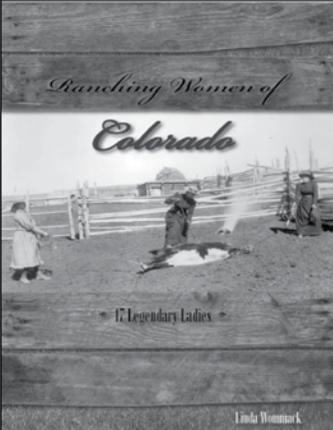
*Uncommon Anthropologist: Gladys Reichard and Western Native American Culture*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 337 pages, \$34.95  
OUPress.com

Gladys Reichard (1897-1955) was a pioneering anthropologist who spent most of her life living with the Navajo people, learning their language and customs and creating numerous books and articles describing the nuances and structure of the Navajo language. She founded the Anthropology Department at Barnard College and won acclaim not only as a linguist but as a scholar who captured the Navajo point of view. However, gender-challenged male-dominated anthropologists denigrated her work. After her death, an incompetent executor scattered her papers, including



Publishing Fine Books in the West since 1925  
Caldwell, Idaho  
www.caxtonpress.com



The American West has always been known for strong women, and the state of Colorado is no exception. From the earliest days of settlement, Colorado women had a love for the land and built their homesteads and ranches. The Homestead Act of 1862 brought thousands west for free land, new beginnings, and a new way of life. For many, it was the dawn of a new dream, and no more so than for the female homesteader. At a time when most women's futures were tied to a husband's prosperity, it was a bold, courageous step for women to step out of the conventional norm.

In *Ranching Women of Colorado: 17 Legendary Ladies* author Linda Wommack tells the stories of these remarkable women who found ways to survive and thrive in the male dominated ranching industry of the 19<sup>th</sup> century West.

ISBN# 978-087004-6292 ———\$17.95 retail ———346 pages ———9x6 softbound

Available February 2020 at local bookstores or at [www.caxtonpress.com](http://www.caxtonpress.com)

unpublished writings and correspondence, among a number of different university and museum archives, resulting in a younger generation of anthropologists who failed to recognize the significance of her work. This excellent biography makes possible an appreciation of an underrated yet outstanding scholar of the American Indians, especially the Navajo, of the West.

– Abraham Hoffman

**MARK McDONALD** (author) and **BILL DeORE** (illustrator)  
*Beyond The Big Shootout: 50 Years of Football's Life Lessons*

Dust Devil Books  
Hardcover, 343 pages, \$29  
DustDevilPublishing.com

Things often get Western in Arkansas and Texas – especially during football season – and one of the most famous games ever played between the state universities, “The Big Shootout” of December 6, 1969, is recounted here by Mark McDonald. McDonald’s no stranger to football – he was a starting lineman for two years at the University of Texas-El Paso – and spent years as a newspaper journalist in Texas. Written in an easy-to-read style, told with humor and McDonald’s keen eye to detail – and abundantly illustrated – this handsome coffee-table book should please college football fans and sports historians.

**DEBORAH ROMANEK**  
*Hardship, Greed and Sorrow: An Officer's Photo Album of 1866 New Mexico Territory*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Paperback, 130 pages, \$24.95  
OUPress.com

What a terrific find for anyone interested in Old West photographs, circa 1866, and New Mexico’s military in the territorial period. This album/essay/book covers history from the American Indians’, white settlers’ and the military’s point of view. Some of the photos, housed in the archives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, are published for the first time. Others are well-known, but generally taken out of context and manipulated. This book is an honest look at a complex, tough subject: the Territorial Period of New Mexico.

– Melody Groves

**TOM RUSSELL**  
*The Ballad of Western Expressionism*

Frontera Press  
Paperback, 94 pages, \$29.99  
FronteraRecords.com

To think of Tom Russell as a significant painter of our American West is not a stretch, though most know him as a singer/songwriter. Russell, on a sweet level with the masters of songwriting (Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Townes Van Zandt), has long been a biographer-by-song – writing tight, moving, vivid, anecdotal songs about Mickey Mantle,

Claude Dallas, Edward Abbey, Jack Kerouac, Dave Van Ronk, Sterling Hayden and others of (let’s call it) the Modern Expressionistic West. As a painter, Russell is in the same bucking corral as artists Georgia O’Keefe, Edvard Munch, Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse. Russell’s paintings give a viewer *emotional truth* rather than photo realism. His paintings (of Indians, cowboys, rebels, free spirits and legends like Ramblin’ Jack Elliott) are a bridge to classical Western painters and to modernists like Bob Boze Bell. Russell furthers the legend of our great tale of the West – the mature, grown-up, yet still wild West – with vivid, raw-color images.

– Red Shuttleworth

**JOSEPH P. SANCHEZ**  
*El Camino Real de California: From Ancient Pathways to Modern Highways*

University of New Mexico Press  
Hardcover, 274 pages, \$65  
OUPress.com

This book’s subtitle is deceptive since the main focus is on the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; U.S. Highway 101 is barely mentioned at the end of the book. Most of the book – some 90 pages – traces the 1769 Portola expedition from San Diego to San Francisco Bay. The account is based on Fray Juan Crespi’s diary and Herbert Bolton’s biography of Crespi. The native tribes encountered by the expedition were

## TWO WOMEN WHO DEFINED THE WEST ON THEIR OWN TERMS

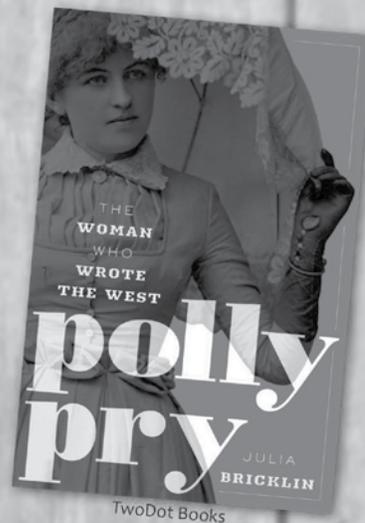


Sharpshooter Lillian Frances Smith and journalist Polly Pry bucked conventions in their fields.

Their struggles, grit, savviness and determination paved the way for many other women.

No collection of works about the American West is complete without these two groundbreaking books.

**Available Now**



generally hospitable, sharing food (in trade for glass beads) and even providing guides to help the Spaniards on their way. Joseph P. Sanchez argues that the blazing of the pathway had numerous consequences for the development of Spanish, Mexican and Anglo settlement. While it is true that U.S. 101 roughly parallels El Camino Real, readers will lament the lack of maps clearly delineating Portola's route. But anyone researching the first years of Alta California and Portola's trek will find this book indispensable, especially for the numerous appendices providing source information.

— Abraham Hoffman

### RONALD R. SWITZER

*Arkansas, Forgotten Land of Plenty*

McFarland and Company  
Paperback, 212 pages, \$49.95  
McFarlandBooks.com

Ronald R. Switzer is a former national park ranger who has written several nonfiction books. *Arkansas, Forgotten Land of Plenty* is a survey of the development of the state and surrounding region from its earliest European immigrants to 1900. Written like a textbook, this is a valuable reference book for those interested in the early history of the region. Switzer's anecdotal style of writing focuses on the activities of lesser-known characters who made the frontier a productive, settled land. His chapter notes at the end of the text

are extensive, and the bibliography is comprehensive and provides a valuable resource for those seeking further research on a subject.

Though not a book one would read for relaxation or recreation, Switzer's informative style draws you into the subject at hand. I could see several places where historic novels could be written, taking off from Switzer's text.

— James D. Crownover

### DAVID G. THOMAS

*Killing Pat Garrett, The Wild West's Most Famous Lawman: Murder or Self-Defense?*

Doc45 Publishing  
Hardcover, 258 pages, \$24.95  
Doc45.com.

While probably not the Wild West's most famous lawman, Pat Garrett certainly deserves this in-depth biography. In this volume, part of the Mesilla Valley History Series, the author opens with the investigation into the disappearance and presumed murder of Colonel Albert Fountain and his 8-year-old-son, Henry, in 1896. It covers Garrett's various law-enforcement positions, the Fountain murder trial and the murder of Garrett himself in 1908. The arrest of suspect Wayne Brazel and the trial are reported in detail. The book includes 102 images, some of which are published for the first time.

— Monty McCord

### JERRY THOMPSON

*Wrecked Lives and Lost Souls: Joe Lynch Davis and the Last of the Oklahoma Outlaws*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Paperback, 340 pages, \$24.95  
OUPress.com

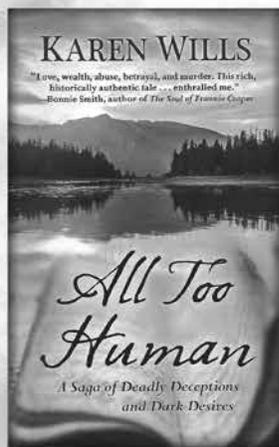
*Wrecked Lives and Lost Souls* begins with a box of forgotten letters and a dash of curiosity and is transformed into a full-fledged examination of a bloody period of often-overlooked Oklahoma history. Jerry Thompson knew little of his mixed-blood grandfather, but discovered more than he could have ever imagined when he started researching the box of letters. This book takes a deep dive into his grandfather's escapades and fleshes out, with solid, academic sleuthing, a time of turmoil, transition and lawlessness, that is more reflective of the Wild West than the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Well-written, thoroughly researched with pictures and a navigable index, this book should appeal to anyone interested in the history of the American West, especially that transition time where some men thought they could get away with anything – and did.

— Larry D. Sweazy

### WALTER THOMPSON-HERNANDEZ

*The Compton Cowboys: The New Generation of Cowboys in America's Urban Heartland*

# KAREN WILLS



"In my opinion Karen Wills is the Charlie Russell of prose. Her descriptions of Northwestern Montana are precisely and beautifully crafted." *Janice Goodeson McCaffrey, author of Plans Interrupted, a Novel by Madge Wood*

"This novel explores the lives of strong women in unique places: in 1866 when Lucinda makes an arduous trek from the East coast to her new husband's estate in Montana Territory, and in 1905, when Rebecca's own professional aspirations in a field and society are not yet welcoming to female attorneys... the beautiful depictions of rural Montana shine and do help set a romantic and intriguing atmosphere that will entertain fans of this time period and location." *Ellen Jaquette, Historical Novels Review*

"A simply riveting page-turner of a read from cover to cover. All Too Human showcases author Karen Wills' genuine flair for originality..." *Midwest Book Review*

Available in hardcover through Five Star Publishing, Barnes and Noble,  
and other book outlets

also in ebook format through Amazon and other outlets after March 20, 2020

William Morrow  
Hardcover, 272 pages, \$28.99  
HarperCollins.com

The setting for *New York Times* reporter Walter Thompson-Hernandez's revelatory account of a different breed of urban cowboys is Richland Farms, a semirural enclave smack-dab in the middle of one of America's most crime-ridden inner cities, a place "more known for black death than it [is] for black horse riders." Founded in the post-World War II era by Southern black farm families seeking refuge from Jim Crow, this Southern California neighborhood in 1988 became the headquarters of the Compton Junior Posse, where real-estate maven Mayisha Akbar sought to provide local youth with a safe alternative to the streets. Thompson-Hernandez, himself a Compton success story, follows the efforts of a new generation of riders to preserve ranch traditions in the wake of declining donor interest and escalating turf warfare while battling their own personal demons of addiction and violence. Though handicapped by a too-anecdotal structure that shortchanges

the rich history of black cowboys in the West, the book is always compelling in its finely etched personal stories. As one rider says, "Streets raised us. Horses saved us."

— Kirk Ellis

**BARRY WALSH** (author)  
and **ANNA KIM WALSH**  
(photographer)  
*The Great Tradition of Hopi Katsina Carvers: 1880 to Present*

Rio Nuevo  
Paperback, 256 pages, \$24.95  
RioNuevo.com

Sculpture, above any other art, tells us what this world is all about. That is certainly true for the katsina carvings of the Hopi Indians and others as expertly presented in this publication. The early tradition of the carvings date to the 1880-1910 period and were often intended as gifts for children. While most sculptors were American Indians, some early on were German immigrants. Most of the early carvers were anonymous, but that changed in the 1920s with the emergence of Wilson Tawaquaptewa (1873-1960)

and his uniquely identifiable works. By the 1930s, dolls were instilled with arrested motion to appeal to the growing demand from the Anglo market. Author Barry Walsh presents the different phases of katsina carving and also profiles some two dozen noted sculptors. Their work is beautifully illustrated with color reproductions of selected pieces. This is an outstanding guide book for this important form of Western American art.

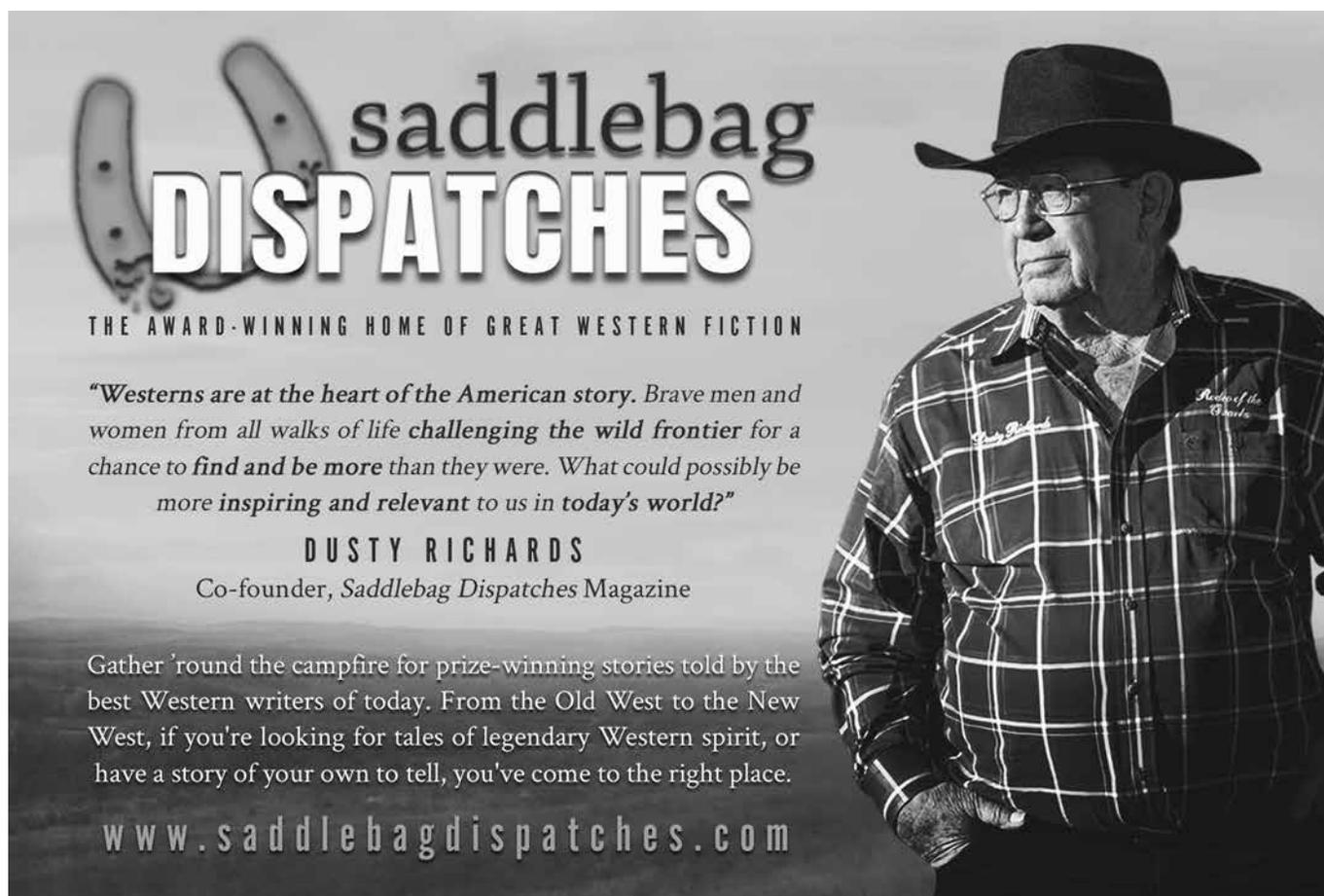
— Larry Len Peterson

**ROBERT N. WATT**

*"Horses Worn to Mere Shadows": The Victorio Campaign 1880*

Helion & Company  
Hardcover, 506 pages, \$69.95  
Hellion.co.uk

British historian Robert Watt leaves no stone unturned in his meticulously detailed account of one of the American Southwest's decisive encounters between the U.S. Army and American Indians. This second installment in a three-volume work begins in January 1880 with Victorio and his band of Warm Springs Apaches effectively waging guerrilla warfare against overtaxed



**saddlebag  
DISPATCHES**

THE AWARD-WINNING HOME OF GREAT WESTERN FICTION

*"Westerns are at the heart of the American story. Brave men and women from all walks of life challenging the wild frontier for a chance to find and be more than they were. What could possibly be more inspiring and relevant to us in today's world?"*

**DUSTY RICHARDS**  
Co-founder, Saddlebag Dispatches Magazine

Gather 'round the campfire for prize-winning stories told by the best Western writers of today. From the Old West to the New West, if you're looking for tales of legendary Western spirit, or have a story of your own to tell, you've come to the right place.

[www.saddlebagdispatches.com](http://www.saddlebagdispatches.com)

military forces in New Mexico and ends with the Apache leader's death 10 months later at the hands of Mexican soldiers and Indian auxiliaries in the Tres Castillos mountains of northern Chihuahua. Other writers, notably Dan Thrapp, have covered this ground before, but none with Watt's impressive command of sources (oral, archival, published and archaeological) or critical appraisal of conflicting narratives and previously accepted facts. *"Horses Worn to Mere Shadows,"* together with its companion volumes, is an impressive study of warfare, diplomacy, and resistance.

– Bruce J. Dinges

## LINDA M. WAGGONER

*Starring Red Wing! The Incredible Career of Lilian M. St. Cyr, the First Native American Film Star*

University of Nebraska Press  
Hardcover, 504 pages, \$32.95  
NebraskaPress.unl.edu

This book about the pre-World War I American Indian actress goes into much detail about her work in silent films and, later, as a traveling speaker educating audiences about Indian culture. The author constantly brings up the racist attitudes of the day, with numerous lectures about colonialism, as well as some attacks on Red Wing's nitpicking critics – even when they were praising her. Also, at times, Red Wing's life is overshadowed by that of her ne'er-do-well husband, James Youngdeer, whose life was far more interesting and who harbored a startling secret. Love to see a bio on *him*. Though well-researched, it's sometimes hard to discuss a film which has been lost to the ages, and the author is forced to rely on old synopses. Still, this is a nice tribute to a performer you don't hear about too often.

– Bob Herzberg

## FICTION

### LEO W. BANKS

*Champagne Cowboys*

Brash Books  
Trade paperback, 291 pages, \$18.99  
Brash-Books.com

With his first novel, *Double Wide*, winning two Spur Awards in 2018, Leo W. Banks offers a sequel in the same vein of Western *noir*. The setting repeats here

in a trailer park in the Arizona desert when the ex-baseball player turned detective "Whip" Stark sets out to find the murderers of his friends, a wealthy Tucson couple. An award-winning journalist, Banks exhibits his ability to write a good story.

– Lynn Bueling

### IRENE BENNETT BROWN

*Tangled Times*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 232 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Spur Award-winning author Irene Bennett Brown brings us another great story set in her beloved Kansas of the early 1900s. Newlyweds Jocelyn and Pete are salt-of-the-earth folks, working hard on their little cattle operation while helping their community. Jocelyn is a strong woman who speaks her mind through many challenges – cattle rustlers, arson, homeless youngsters, and starting a schoolhouse. She dreams of having a baby and lots of humorous fertility tricks are offered by the neighbor women, including moon dances. These are the "good old days" when your mailman pulled up in horse and buggy and you offered him pie and coffee. At Christmas time there are mince pies, apple cake and horses' harness bells tinkling in a light snow. You'll want to visit Nickel Hill Ranch, and Brown skillfully takes us there.

– Denise F. McAllister

### JOHN BENNION

*Ezekiel's Third Wife*

Roundfire Books  
Trade paperback, 232 pages, \$15.95  
Roundfire-Books.com

Contending with the arid Utah desert, Rachel, one of three – soon to be four – sister wives of a Mormon patriarch, works hard to support all of Ezekiel's women and children. He is in England, finding yet another child wife, even though plural marriage has been outlawed. Meanwhile, Rachel, committing bigamy, has secretly married Matthew Harker, her childhood sweetheart. In the last days before Rachel and Matthew leave the Mormon community, Sophia, the elder wife, is found murdered out by the irrigation ditch. Who has done it? With water so scarce, someone may have been stealing water, but Matthew is

blamed and it's up to Rachel to clear him. The writing is excellent, the setting well depicted, the subject matter seems well-researched. Even so, neither the plot nor the characters caught this reader's fancy.

– Carol Crigger

### TIM CHAMPLIN

*Tom and Huck's Deathly River: Adventures in Time – 1849*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 241 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

What a fun read. Time travel and adventure (even if it was all a bit "out there") packed into 241 pages. Tim Champlin does a great job combining all the characters, including teen time traveler Zane, to create an easy, fun read even for those who have never read any of Mark Twain's novels.

– Sandy Whiting

### BRETT COGBURN

*Gunpowder Express: A Widower Jones Western*

Pinnacle  
Mass-market paperback, 368 pages, \$7.99  
KensingtonBooks.com

Dead broke, with no prospects, Newt "Widower" Jones decides to pick up a few dollars using his knuckles in Vulture City, Arizona's boxing ring. His opponent, Ten Mule Mike, convinces Newt that was a bad idea. Once Newt regains consciousness, he finds himself still broke and now nursing a new set of cuts to add to his already scarred-up face. Reluctantly, he signs on to protect a shipment of gold being transported by stage from the Vulture City mines to the Southern Pacific railhead. This is a task made difficult by the scorching desert heat, torrential rains and the vicious killer, Irish Jack O'Harrigan. Brett Cogburn's third offering in the "Widower Jones" series is populated with believable and interesting characters – good and bad. It's an exciting, fast-paced adventure, full of surprises every hard mile of the way.

– Robert D. McKee

### PAUL COLT

*Grasshoppers in Summer*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 339 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Historical fiction is an elusive task. Authenticity is always at risk. Paul Colt does a commendable job bringing

together historical facts and insightful storytelling involving many key figures in the conspiratorial destruction of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. As tribal leaders struggle to remain people of the land and honor the treaty, the avarice of white settlers and miners destroy any hope Indian people may have. The crushing Indian victory at Greasy Grass is the final act of defiance, culminating in total defeat.

– Vernon Schmid

**CAROL CRIGGER**

*The Yeggman's Apprentice*

Wolfpack Publishing  
Trade paperback, 335 pages, \$15.99  
WolfpackPublishing.com

Safecracking heroine Wilkie Van Slyke teams up with wanted-man Hix Forry to stop a law firm of embezzlers. These men will stop at nothing, including murder, to retrieve what Wilkie stole. With her mentor, "Uncle" Jameson, dead, Wilkie must fend for

herself, evading capture and bullets. Hix provides a broken-down motorcycle, which sometimes starts, helping them outrun the villains – or not. What could have easily turned into a slapstick comedy, *The Yeggman's Apprentice* avoids that to retain its "impossible-to-put-down-the-book" energy. Set in 1905, it meshes horses with machines, where often a horse trumps a motorcycle. Hix becomes a realistic reluctant sidekick and Wilkie a quite believable character. She definitely would make a family reunion unforgettable. A terrific novel.

– Melody Groves

**RUSTY DAVIS**

*Cheyenne Gun: The Adventures of Fox Running and John Dooley*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 282 pages, \$25.99  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

At times, life just isn't fair. For Fox Running, life isn't only unfair, it's his enemy. Nothing is easy for this

Northern Cheyenne boy. Orphaned at a young age, he was sent to an Indian School in Boston where they tried to "beat the Indian out of the boy." He escaped back to the West with the help of John Dooley, where more trials and travails awaited him. While this novel is something of a "downer," it certainly brings to light and life an inside look at the struggles American Indians had, and still have, to retain their dignity and culture. This is a chapter of American history that needs not be forgotten.

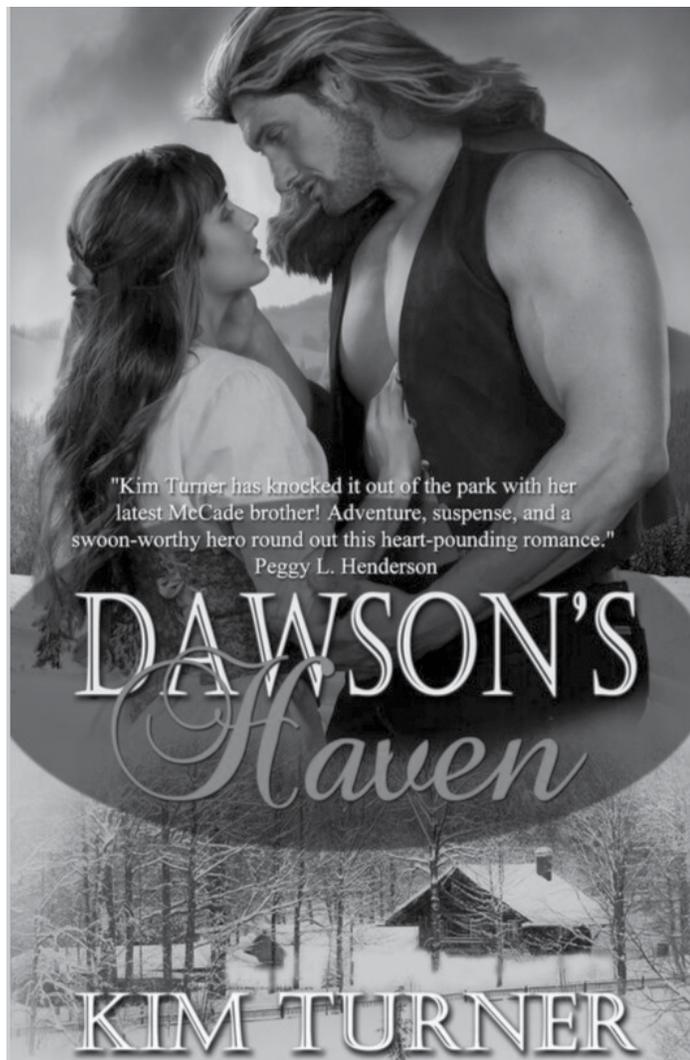
– Melody Groves

**DAN L. FULLER**

*Rifle by the Door*

Lighthouse Publishing  
Trade paperback, 176 pages, \$14.99  
LPCBooks.com

Dan L. Fuller's novel is a heartwarming story about two children who need help after their father is killed. Bounty hunter John Beck, an old friend of the father, comes to their aid. Beck teaches



3rd book in the  
McCades of  
Cheyenne series

*Golden Heart & Maggie Finalist*

**KIM  
TURNER**

*It's all about a cowboy  
& the woman he loves*

**KimTurnerWrites.com**

them about ranching and surviving in the Colorado winter. The story is full of adventure and danger from a neighbor who wants to take their ranch while the killer of their father is still on the loose. The children have to learn to defend themselves in order to survive. Readers will not be disappointed.

– Lowell F. Volk

## HARLAN HAGUE

*This New Day*

Graycatbird Books  
Trade paperback, 303 pages, \$16.25  
HarlanHague.us

Women were strong in the Old West. In this story of emigrants heading west on the Oregon Trail, there are food and water shortages, buffalo stampedes, oxen-led wagons and lecherous, tobacco-spitting men. There are also Indians to befriend, dispelling the negative, preconceived notions some whites held. Protagonist Molly, a widow traveling alone with her two children, has to be strong – even spunky. She questions her faith, though, when it comes to catastrophic disease and death. Lucky for her, there is also romance. But even that

has its dramatic ups and downs. Life in the wagon-train community presents its own struggles, but also humor involving bloomers and moccasin-wearing livestock. A solid Western saga.

– Denise F. McAllister

## EASY JACKSON

*Muskrat Hill*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 293 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Easy Jackson (pen name for Vicky J. Rose) wastes no time involving the reader in the psychological underbelly of Muskrat Hill, Texas. Told from the viewpoint of Kittrell “Kit” Robertson, whose own personal involvement makes this story a page turner of the highest magnitude, this book has more twists and turns than a rambunctious Texas diamondback. From the moment a young Robertson and his friend Whitey discover the body of a mutilated young woman, the action never stops. And as the number of human and animal mutilations increase, citizens of the town are sent into frenzied fear. As the town’s long hidden secrets

come to light, the reader comes to know strikingly flawed characters who, more importantly, are real. The result is a book of substance and easily recommended.

– Phil Mills Jr.

## PRESTON LEWIS

*Rio Ruidoso*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 300 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

All Wes Bracken wants is to start a new life in Lincoln County, make an honest living and perhaps build a family. Wes’s plans are interrupted when he discovers his partner/brother has fallen victim to alcoholism, and the woman he falls in love with is of another race, married and pregnant. Integrating real-life characters like John Chisum, the author exhibits a knack for describing Western details. While Wes comes off as kind to others he sees as being mistreated, he’s less sympathetic with his drunken brother. The anger he feels at being betrayed by a sibling who loves the bottle more than anything else is real. A good Western for those who demand a coura-

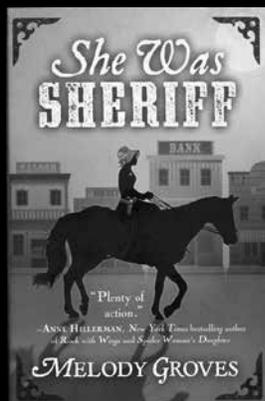
# Melody Groves



**AWARD WINNING AUTHOR OF**

**AND THE SOON TO BE RELEASED**

# LADY OF THE LAW



Visit [www.melodygroves.net](http://www.melodygroves.net)  
for more information.



geous, rather hard-nosed, hero.

— Vicky J. Rose

### ANDREW McBRIDE

*Coyote's People*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 282 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

In the 1870s, Calvin Taylor, a young boy, nicknamed Choctaw, grows into manhood after being attacked by Apaches. He is working with the Army while Apache chief, Coyote, seeks peace. Andrew McBride has an interesting way of portraying life between the Apaches, white Americans in Tucson and the Army at Camp Walsh. While the Apaches try to remain peaceful, some citizens of Tucson seek to destroy them by falsely placing blame on the tribe for raiding and killing. An entertaining, emotional read.

— Lowell F. Volk

### ROD MILLER

*Pinebox Collins*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 237 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Young Pinebox Collins drifts from boomtown to boomtown in the frontier West, plying "The Dismal Trade" of undertaking and befriending notable characters like Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. Because of his profession and his peg leg, a result of a Civil War injury, Pinebox drinks alone and seeks his own counsel. Leaving a disastrous flooding in Pioche, Pinebox lands in Salt Lake City, which offers opportunities in his line of work and an affair of the heart, both of which run up against Mormon practices and require a hasty departure. His last move from Deadwood to Yankton signals the end of an era. Carefully researched, you'll learn the arts of embalming, constructing fine caskets and fashioning artificial legs that are works of art. A refreshing, creative story that moves at an unhurried, satisfying pace.

— Harlan Hague

### JANE COLETTI PERRY

*Marcello's Promise*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 363 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

This is a testament to the immigrant saga in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century United States. The young Italians in the story, part of the so-called Italian Diaspora, settled not in Brooklyn, Manhattan and New Jersey, but in Wyoming, where they became miners. While their eastern counterparts returned to Italy in large numbers, these newcomers to the West were determined to make a new life. Marcello leaves his young wife in Italy, pledging to work hard as a miner and send for her as soon as he could afford her passage. Reunited in a hardscrabble Wyoming mining town, they endure hardship and danger while raising their children and making friends with immigrant neighbors from many countries. Based loosely on the author's kin, this is a touching love story.

— Harlan Hague

### LORETTA MILES TOLLEFSON

*Not Just Any Man*

Palo Flechado Press  
Trade paperback, 311 pages, \$14.99  
PaloFlechadoPress.com

Gerald, son of a free black man

## ENGAGING. BOLD. DISTINCTIVE.

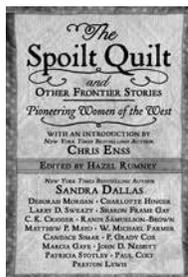
More and more readers are looking for fiction that captures America's spirit of freedom and individualism. Five Star delivers by providing not only traditional westerns, but thrilling frontier mysteries, heartfelt pioneering stories, and tales of the women who shaped the West.

Available through all major wholesalers and distributors.

## FIVE STAR PUBLISHING

From Gale, a Cengage Company

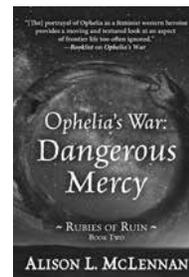
Don't miss these tales of women shaping the American frontier!



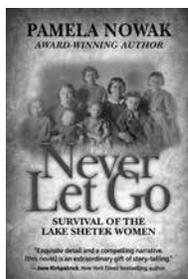
**The Spoilt Quilt and Other Frontier Stories**  
Pioneering Women of the West  
Sandra Dallas, et al.  
9781432864293 | \$25.95



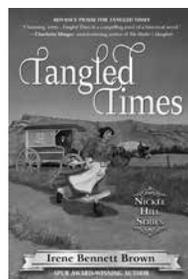
**Spirit Walker**  
A Cheyenne Saga  
Rusty Davis  
9781432860110 | \$25.95



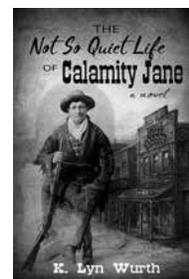
**Ophelia's War: Dangerous Mercy**  
Rubies of Ruin • Book 2  
Alison L. McLennan  
9781432858148 | \$25.95



**Never Let Go**  
Survival of the Lake Shetek Women  
Pamela Nowak  
9781432872434 | \$25.95



**Tangled Times**  
Nickel Hill Series • Book 2  
Irene Bennett Brown  
9781432867294 | \$25.95



**The Not So Quiet Life of Calamity Jane**  
K. Lyn Wurth  
9781432871352 | \$25.95

and an Irish servant girl, travels from Missouri to Taos, New Mexico, to find his father. He does, but his father disappears into the mountains. In Taos, Gerald discovers he wants to be known as his own man, and sets his sights on a young woman of French and Indian descent. But she is still young, so he spends winters trapping beaver and saving his money. When Enoch Jones harasses the village's women, Gerald comes to the rescue in town. Gerald proves to himself and the girl that he isn't just any man.

– Melody Groves

### PAT WAHLER

*I Am Mrs. Jesse James*

Blank Slate Press  
Trade paperback, 316 pages, \$15.95  
AmphoraePublishing.com

Yes, Jesse James was one of history's most notorious outlaws, who, along with brother Frank, was a bank robber and pro-Confederate guerilla alongside William Quantrill. And, yes, Jesse married his first cousin, Zerelda "Zee" Mimms, who had nursed him to health after an injury. The rest of *I Am Mrs. Jesse James* is largely speculative, imagining Zee's years of living under aliases, on the run from state to state with two children in tow. Pat Wahler says the book was born of wondering "Why a quiet and deeply religious young woman ... would marry a man such as Jesse James – not only her first cousin but a bandit known throughout the country." A well-rounded story, following Zee from her romance with young Jesse to her days of impoverished widowhood after his murder. Solid storytelling, concluding with discussion questions for book clubs.

– Micki Fuhrman

### C.M. WENDELBOE

*The Marshal and the Mystical Mountain: A Nelson Lane Frontier Mystery*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 234 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

In the 1930s, U.S. marshal Nelson Lane investigates a hunting resort, which has not only high-powered clientele, but an exceedingly suspicious bunch of employees. A young man, a photographer on the trail of a story that will damage the government and ruin

reputations has disappeared, only to be found dead. Then it turns out a couple of girls on site to provide "entertainment" have gone missing as well. It will take all of Nelson's regular crew – tribal policeman Yancy Stands Close and deputy Maris Red Hat – to discover the secrets of Mystical Mountain Hunting Lodge and bring a bad lot to justice. Fast paced, lots of action, appealing characters, a logical story, a nice twist at the end ... what's not to like?

– Carol Crigger

### MICHAEL ZIMMER

*Villa Lobos*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 338 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Multi-award winner Michael Zimmer just might have authored his best Western novel, *Villa Lobos*. All the ingredients are here: bank robbers, U.S. Cavalry, crusty old lawmen, prostitutes and renegades from the Mexican desert town, Rio Lobos. Cavalry Sergeant Andrew Cade is dispatched to escort a group of stowaway prostitutes back to El Paso. As if this task were not complicated enough, Cade and his men are overrun by the Ben Hollister gang fresh off a semi-successful bank robbery in Rio Largo. The sheriff of Rio Largo and a handful of townspeople join in the pursuit of the Hollister gang. South of the border, José Yanez and his Hunters wait near the village of Villa Lobos to exact vengeance on the *norteamericanos*. Reminiscent of *The Searchers* and *The Magnificent Seven*.

– John Neely Davis

## JUVENILE

S.J. DAHLSTROM (author)

CLIFF WILKE (illustrator)

*Silverbelly: A Wilder Good Adventure*

Paul Dry Books  
Paperback, 184 pages, \$9.95  
PaulDryBooks.com

In the sixth installment of the "Wilder Good" series, Wilder is back on his grandfather's West Texas ranch, hoping to earn a trophy buck during hunting season. After a run-in with a hunter neighbor and hearing stories about his "Papa's" wild friend, a magnificent old mule deer named Silverbelly, Wilder

must come to terms with his ideas of hunting, respecting wildlife and the landscape surrounding him. Spur Award finalist S.J. Dahlstrom has brought this coming-of-age tale to life through his natural, easy writing style and stunningly beautiful descriptions. I have been a Wilder fan from the start, and each subsequent adventure only gets better.

– Rocky Gibbons

### DARBY KARCHUT

*Del Toro Moon*

Owl Hollow Press  
Paperback, 258 pages, \$12.99  
OwlHollowPress.com

This book has everything middle grade readers (and adults like me) could possibly want – scary monsters, talking horses, dry wit, brave caballeros and a 12-year-old hero with heart. For many centuries the descendants of medieval Spanish knights have protected mankind in the New World from giant wolf-like creatures called skinnners. When a paleontology dig in skinnners territory in Colorado goes dreadfully wrong, the Del Toro family and their Andalusian warhorses are called into action once again. *Del Toro Moon* received the 2018 Moonbeam Children's Book Award silver medallion and the 2019 Colorado Book Award in juvenile literature. The sequel, *The Red Casket*, was released in January.

– Rocky Gibbons

## BOOK NOTES

ALAN L. CONTREARAS and  
ULRICH H. HARDT (editors)

*The Collected Poems of Ada Hastings Hedges*

Oregon State University Press  
Trade paperback, 144 pages, \$18.95  
OSUPress.oregonstate.edu

Mostly forgotten today, Illinois-born Ada Hastings Hedges (1884-1980) was best known for her poems, often sonnets, about the high desert of Oregon, where she lived for most of her life. She only had one poetry collection published, *Desert Poems* (1933), which is included in this collection. An introduction and text annotations from the editors offer an overview of Hedges's work and legacy. Oregon Book Award-winning poet Ingrid Wendt provides an afterword.