

# Fighting Caravans

*Zane Grey*

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Twenty-eight wagons packed with families, supplies, and tough-as-nails Texans circle up and fight for their lives against relentless hostile Indian attacks in this action-packed adventure from "the greatest novelist of the American West." Over 30 million Zane Gray paperbacks sold since 1954.

## Fighting Caravans Details

Date : Published December 7th 1992 by HarperPrism (first published 1929)

ISBN : 9780061004568

Author : Zane Grey

Format : Paperback 361 pages

Genre : Westerns, Fiction, Classics, Adventure

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## **From Reader Review Fighting Caravans for online ebook**

### **Carol and Gary Curtis says**

Quite a yarn. Grey had a real talent for story telling. Took a long time to cover all the history involved but well worth the time it needed.

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### **Erin says**

I love westerns. I love the cliche stories of strong men and women fighting for their lives in the West. From childhood I have adored Louis L'Amour and I once read a Zane Grey that I really disliked. I decided to give him one last chance and remembered why I didn't like his writing. His women are all weak and fawn over the men. The men are too stereotypical. Even though some of the fight scenes were ok, I just didn't get the feeling of the Old West that I love to read about in other, better, western writers.

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### **Violet says**

I think Zane Grey is my favorite author of westerns. He has a large body of excellent writing and mostly involve cowboys of the old west, while also inserting a bit of romance. This story tells of the large caravans that carried goods of all kinds from one place to another and the hardships involved, including fighting off Indians and outlaws. It is also the story of two very young people (10 & 12) who traveled by caravan with their parents. Their parents were killed, they were separated, and grew up looking for each other on the trails. It has a happy ending.

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### **Frederick Danysh says**

Clint Belmer lost his parents in a Indian raid when he was young. Now he makes his living guiding caravans past Indian country. His biggest fight will not be with his enemy but with the man trying to steal his girl.

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### **Mojca says**

2 1/2 - 3 stars

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### **Joseph says**

A marvelous book, that I enjoyed very much. My first Zane Grey. My dad read mostly westerns, and he had the Zane Grey library published by Walter J. Black in the mid 50's, which I inherited and just recently started dipping into.

Zane Grey is an early western writer, and a popular one, so many tropes that originated with him have become cliche, which becomes a disservice to his work if one doesn't read it with a sense of context as well. His characters are also very much a product of his time, the 20's and 30's versus the late 1800's in which the stories are taking place for the most part. His writing is simple and direct, very rarely poetic, in contrast to writers like Max Brand. But that Zane Grey cares about his subject matter is evident, and I found that this book in particular drew me in and became for me one of the most enjoyable books I have read over the last year or so. The last book I read of any genre that I enjoyed as much as this was Little Big Man, which has some surface similarity with this book, though a much different tone.

Fighting Caravans follows the life of Clint "Buff" Belmet from boy to man, the majority of his life taking place with the social milieu of the freight caravans which moved goods and people across the dangerous plains of the western frontier. Clint loses his mother to a native attack on his first caravan, and his growth and outlook is shaped by that traumatic event, and though it hardens him and forms his early outlook, Clint grows through the course of the novel and ends with a much more balanced outlook. The novel is picaresque and episodic, with the main backbone of plot consisting of a romance with a girl that starts when they are children, and progresses more or less how one would expect in a story like this, but I found the book to be more of a reflection on the growth of Clint, and the changes in the nation as a whole seen through Clint's eyes. In that respect it is very much like Little Big Man, though that book has a much more comedic outlook than this one. We meet many historical characters important on the western frontier, and see them through Clint's eyes. Men like Kit Carson, Custer, etc.

Overall, I found this book very enjoyable. Zane Grey definitely deserves his place in the history of the western novel, and I will be reading more of his work.

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### **Tripp says**

Southwest

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### **David Foster says**

How many years since I read a western? Wow! It's a love story that barely surfaces above all the bloody adventures of massive caravans crossing the prairies in the mid 1800's, fighting Sioux, Comanches, Kiowa and Paiute tribes. The civil war rages but the caravans keep moving.

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### **Lynda says**

Until I read Louis L'Amour, Zane Grey was my favorite western author. This book was good, but not one of his best.

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### **Puffer T says**

There was a lot of 'fighting' in this book, well what did I expect with the title eh? Kind of over the top I

thought. The west made people crazy! Maybe that is why I love the whiskey.

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### **dnave dnave says**

#### **Great book**

Great book, seems historically accurate. One of the best old west books I have ever read it gets to be just a little of a love story at one point though. Otherwise great book.

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### **Robert Melton says**

#### **Great story, I have always loved Zane Gray**

I have read westerns by Zane Gray since my father introduced me them as a young boy. I find them all good.

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### **Nancy says**

Any Zane grey is worth reading twice!

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### **Martin Gibbs says**

While there is a great deal of fighting in this book--between the caravan trains and the Native American tribes--it is not a spaghetti western, nor does it really reach a high level of violence. Which isn't bad, except that our society today seems to expect a sort of brutality and viciousness. There is that in this book, except it violates all current PC rules and shows just how violent *both* the settlers and the Natives could be... and it is upon this dynamic between Comanche, Kiowa, Pawnee, which I would like to focus.

#### **Why?**

The West was Hell. Settling this land was no simple feat, even if one views it through the glass of "modern" understanding which paints the white man as the evil villain, raping the land of its resources and people. That happened, surely, there is no doubt. Then there is the view of some settlers at the time (which Grey expertly details), that the tribes were all savages and hell-bent on killing the poor settlers. Both extremes is disingenuous to reality, but both also have sparks of truth within them.

So, to get back to the book: I thought Grey did well at painting a picture that was not too clouded by any one way of thinking about history; that captured humanity as it was, and painted a picture of the harsh reality of the West. Again, I read Zane Grey as a master of telling the human condition of the Wild West, and not necessarily the Hollywood shoot-'em-up style of western. Not all villains are evil, and not all good guys sport halos.

Great book. It ain't *Riders of the Purple Sage*, but it's still good.

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