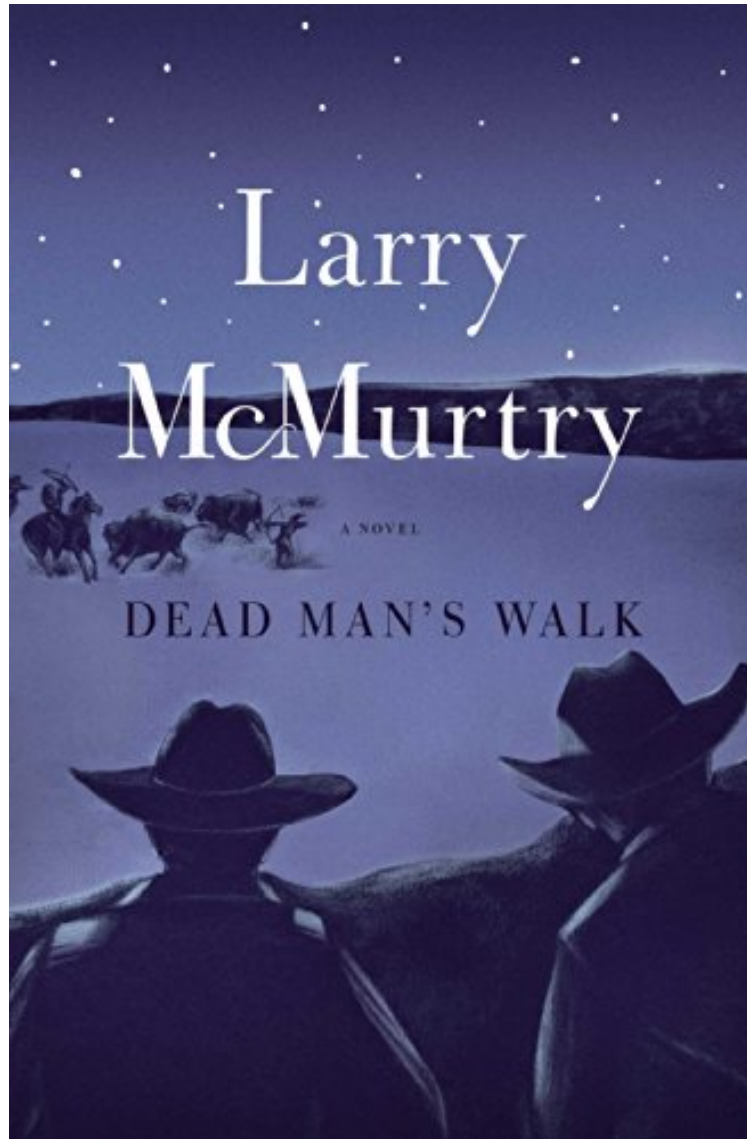


[Read free] Dead Man's Walk: A Novel (Lonesome Dove)

Dead Man's Walk: A Novel (Lonesome Dove)

Von Larry McMurtry
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Von Larry McMurtry : Dead Man's Walk: A Novel (Lonesome Dove) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dead Man's Walk: A Novel (Lonesome Dove):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The legend gets threadbareVon Mick McAllisterMcMurtry has been reading too much of the Tennessee carpetbagger competition, the eyeball sucker school of Western writing. *Dead Man's Walk* is readable and exciting, and delivers a lot less meat (and more blood) than I care for. It is a shapeless, picaresque novel, showing not the development of Call

and McCrae but their stupid, lucky youth. Is it fun? Absolutely. McMurtry half-trying is better than 99% of the writers in the genre. But the nightmare of **Blood Meridian**, that sick caricature of a western, hovers behind the action, and one wishes someone had convinced McMurtry that the competition is all sound and fury. Whatever you do, do not start here, if you are intrigued by the **Lonesome Dove** saga. The story needs to be experienced in the order it was told, not the order it was "lived." The lesson of **Dead Man's Walk** is that young men are brave and foolish. No surprise there.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Respectable "Prequel" to the Great LONESOME DOVE
Von Stuart W. Mirsky
This is a harsh tale of the earliest partnership between Woodrow Call and Gus McCrae, the marvelously heroic anti-heroes of LONESOME DOVE. In this tale the two, as young men, stumble into the early Texas Rangers, drawn by the naive love of adventure which rangering promises the two youths. But they soon find that they and the rangers they lucklessly attach themselves to are no match for the harsh country they confront. The Comanches and the Apaches are harder and smarter in the ways of the wilds and the Mexicans are more numerous and better prepared. The Texans are bunglers, led by charlatans and self-interested adventurers. Worst of all, none of them, from the lowliest ranger, to the officers, to the whores who trail along behind them, know what they are letting themselves in for. It is a hellish passage which they undertake, rife with the sudden violence and grotesqueries which characterize McMurtry's vision of the west. There is the oversized whore, Mattie, who alternately mothers and fornicates with the young rangers she finds around her; the simpering easterner who has set himself up as an officer in the rangers; the pirate turned soldier of fortune who leads his troop of adventurers into country he neither understands nor is prepared to encounter; the sudden lightning storms and tornadoes; the misshapen Comanche war-chief who hunts the white men like buffalo; the deadly Apache who culls the white herd in the night through a long and arduous desert death march; the overly proud Mexican army officer whose life, in the end, depends on the goodwill of his remaining captives; the old mountain man and the scout who travels with him; the brain damaged quarter master whose luck it is to live while other, more complete men must die. All of these rush blindly toward that strange fate which awaits them in the end and which will overwhelm those who will survive, in a moment of surrealistic beauty and dread which somehow wipes away the harshness and suffering which have gone before. In the end, McCrae, the carefree instinctive man of action, and Call, the careful and thoughtful planner, are forced to see that they, as they have been, callow and inexperienced youths, are no match for the country and the people they have found in it. But, unlike most of their comrades, they miraculously survive their trek. And are changed and enlarged by it. Country bumpkins and veritable greenhorns at the outset, they are fast on the way to becoming the tough rangers we will meet once more, in the books which tell of their subsequent adventures, by the end of this tale. This one does not quite rise to the resonant strains of its precursor LONESOME DOVE, but it is a fitting prequel. We get to see how the country and the experiences of a harsh youth began to form the two men whose tale this ultimately is. And if there is not much plot here, there is a vividness in the description and the dialogue that make you feel like you are there with these men. True, the tale is so grotesque as to seem almost unreal. But McMurtry's writing is sharp and evocative and fresh so that, despite a certain predictability in the events, you want to stay with the characters, to experience this harsh and nightmarish world along with them. Not up to LONESOME DOVE. But that was a hard act to follow.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Dead Man's Walk
Von David Posner
I read this book a second time recently, partly because I was not sure if I had read it in the past. The first two thirds is wonderful with the introduction of the characters and the harrowing situations that they find themselves in. I'm puzzled how this book is suppose to reveal how the characters of Gus and Woodrow are created, since they make it through alive mostly on just plain luck. They both certainly get enough experience to fear nothing in the future, but where do they become the fierce fighters that we meet in Lonesome dove? Another book between the two is sorely lacking. The last third of the book is impossible to read a second time. By this point I had long realized that I had read the book before, and remembered how it became a series of weird, gory events. Lonesome dove's is such a better book because it is coherent, and build upon a theme and enriches it. Even though Gus loses his life at the end in an unpredictable encounter, it still fits within the context of his life up to that point. The other themes of this series have nothing to do with the luck of a bean lottery. In Lonesome dove you feel that Gus and Cal are who they are because of their lives experiences that they themselves had influence over. It is out of context to have them survive due to a lucky draw of a colored bean. I got up to that point the second time around and returned the tapes. The first time through despite the above, I was spellbound and shocked by the gore. But you can't read that a second time around and get anything of substance out of the experience.

Kurzbeschreibung
Dead Man's Walk is the first, extraordinary book in the epic Lonesome Dove tetralogy, in which Larry McMurtry breathed new life into the vanished American West and created two of the most memorable heroes in contemporary fiction: Augustus McCrae and Woodrow Call. As young Texas Rangers, Gus and Call have much to learn about survival in a land fraught with perils: not only the blazing heat and raging tornadoes, roiling rivers and merciless Indians but also the deadly whims of soldiers. On their first expeditions--led by incompetent officers and accompanied by the robust, dauntless whore known as the Great Western--they will face death at the hands of the

cunning Comanche war chief Buffalo Hump and the silent Apache Gomez. They will be astonished by the Mexican army. And Gus will meet the love of his life..deIn this prequel to McMurtry's 1986 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Lonesome Dove*, Gus McCrae and Woodrow Call are invincible young bucks, Texas Rangers, full of youthful energy and, quite frankly, full of themselves. That is until they're utterly consumed by the vicious battlefield of the early-19th-century Wild West. Their journey takes them across barren deserts and raging rivers and through steep and snowy mountains, often on foot and with barely enough provisions and clothing to keep them from certain death. The constant threat of attack by Comanches keeps them awake nights, fearing for their lives--and for good reason. "Buffalo Hump reached down and grabbed the terrified boy by his long black hair. He yanked his horse to a stop, lifted Zeke Moody off his feet, and slashed at his head with a knife, just above the boy's ears. Then he whirled and raced across the front of the huddled Rangers, dragging Zeke by the hair. As the horse increased its speed, the scalp tore loose and Zeke fell free. Buffalo Hump had whirled again, and held aloft the bloody scalp." This bedraggled group of adventurers--on their foolhardy expedition to seize Santa Fe from the Mexicans (who also prove to be formidable enemies)--includes a salty assortment of cowboys, scouts, fortune seekers, and a fat and sassy whore nicknamed "The Great Western."

McMurtry's adept storytelling paints a portrait of the Wild West that at times is palpable. One can almost smell the campfires, the body odors, and the long-awaited piece of meat after weeks without a proper meal. *Dead Man's Walk* will satisfy your craving for adventure, without having to put your life on the line. From BooklistFans of *Lonesome Dove* will flock to read McMurtry's latest novel, a prequel to that best-seller, which was made into a popular television miniseries. We meet Woodrow Call and Gus McCrae when they're novice Texas Rangers not yet 20 years old. They are part of a pack of Rangers bound for new frontiers in the Wild West. Traveling with the team is Mathilda, a heavyset whore who provides both comfort and wisdom. When the group gets word that the town of Santa Fe--full of gold and silver and prosperity--is primed to be captured, they head out for a long, dangerous, and ill-fated journey. They are terrorized along the way by the fearsome Comanche chief Buffalo Hump, who is known for viciously torturing those he captures. Their biggest challenge, though, is nature itself, as they must cross *Jornada del Muerto*, or *Dead Man's Walk*. Although foolish, filthy, and ornery, these men are endearing, with a simple but insightful worldview. McMurtry again paints a story full of dreariness and despair with colorful characters, bringing out the beauty rather than the bleakness of life. Mary Frances Wilkens