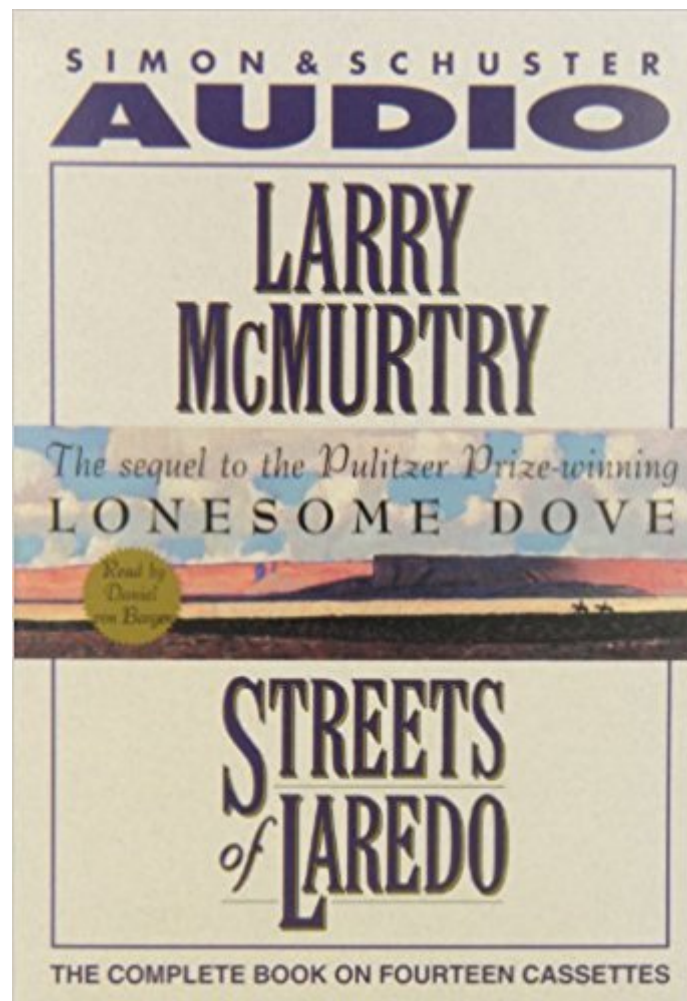




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Streets Of Laredo: Sequel To Lonesome Dove



Synopsis

In the sequel to *Lonesome Dove*, bountyhunter Captain Woodrow Call's search for a killer takes him into the heart of a vanishing America--with Indians, cowboys, and magnificent scenery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The sequel to McMurtry's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Lonesome Dove*. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Woodrow Call is 20 years older than he was when he buried Gus at the end of *Lonesome Dove* (Audio Reviews, LJ 2/15/93); too old, perhaps, to track down a brilliant young Mexican bandit who has been terrorizing most of the Texas frontier. With two untrained deputies, plus his aging old corporal, Pea-Eye, Call leads a chase that scatters bodies all along the border. This sequel to *Lonesome Dove* could easily have been a typical action-packed Western; instead, it is distinguished by two unusual female characters--Lorena from *Lonesome Dove* and a strong Mexican woman named Maria--who fight for respect and decency in the face of unrelieved chauvinism and violence so typical of the West at that time. Daniel von Bargen recounts it all in a superb dramatic narration, one that does full justice to his reputation as an accomplished stage and film actor. As a welcome bonus the publishers have appended information about all the technical staff responsible for the production. Less welcome, though, is the lightweight packaging that will not survive many circulations in a busy library.- Jo Carr, Sarasota, Fla. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information,

Inc.

Anyone who read Lonesome Dove knows that McMurtry doesn't always paint the prettiest picture of the Old West. For every drop of romance or beauty, you get two drops of hardship or downright horror. The sequel, *Streets of Laredo*, doubles (or even triples) down on this. Despite the heartbreak, *Lonesome Dove* is one of my favorite novels. *Streets of Laredo* is a very worthy sequel. That said, there were times reading it, where I felt that it edged toward nihilism and a level of brutality that was unrealistic, even for the Old West. You may ask yourself if McMurtry hates his characters. Still definitely worth a read if you loved *Lonesome Dove* (Probably my favorite Book) and you don't mind cringing through some very difficult moments.

Next to *Lonesome Dove*, this one comes second. What a refreshing change from that trash, "Return to *Lonesome Dove*". That could go straight to the shredder. What a waste of trees! But, "The *Streets of Laredo*", was great. And the film was great. I just loved it. To see the characters come alive was so rewarding. When I heard about Sissy Spacek playing Lorena, I felt sick. But, she captured that role and made it her own. I felt the love that she and Pea shared in a way that Gus could never have had with her. It was heart warming. The whole story was wonderful and realistic in my mind and I just wanted it to go on forever. Thank you so much.

Larry has a way with words. He describes complex emotions and situations with such simplicity that even dunderheads like me can be ne'er stand exactly what is going on in their heads. The country has never been so alive, his language helps you feel as if you are there, cold, hungry and thirsty. I love his writing in this series. The temptation to have Call go on as a hero has been resisted and you can see how age creeps up on you. Thanks Larry.

"*Streets of Laredo*" is the final book in the "*Lonesome Dove*" series. Although it features familiar characters from the previous books, it feels like a different type of story because Call is so much older and without his only friend Augustus McCrae. The story focuses on Woodrow Call and Pea Eye Parker and their pursuit of a young, deadly train robber named Joey Garza. Although Gus dies in the previous book, he still lives on in the memories of those who loved him, and there are numerous flashbacks to scenes involving Gus. Many of the scenes are familiar stories from previous books, but there are a few new ones. I believe McMurtry resorted to this technique to keep the story moving and because Gus was so central to the success of the series. This book really

brings Call's life story to completion. He progressed from a green Texas Ranger in "Dead Man's Walk" to the hardened man we saw in "Lonesome Dove". Now we witness the decline of his career and skills, which is a bit hard to read at times because the hero cannot do the things he once did with ease. At the same time, we also witness a new side of Pea Parker -- that of a husband and father. McMurtry's vision of the "Old West" is a hard place filled with danger and tragedy; however, there are often a few moments of happiness along the way. The main characters in this series -- Gus, Call, Clara, Lorena, Pea Eye, etc. -- all seem to find something here on this Earth despite the hardships, and I think that is a good lesson for us all.

The Lonesome Dove series is wonderful. This book deals with the maturing of the American West and the passing of the generation that tamed it. bordering on American Gothic it is non-the-less much less dark than Comanche Moon or McCarthy's Blood Meridian. Of the series - this may have been my favorite after Lonesome Dove. Without Gus Mcrae to keep things lively - it just feels heavier. Gotta love the strong women characters in this book. They may have been missing in previous books.

Lonesome Dove left a lot hanging, This book deals with the loose ends and in the McMurtry manner, makes the most of violence and cruelty and broken characters. I liked this book, almost more than Lonesome Dove. I did not like the Epilogue particularly. It seemed as if McMurtry had a checklist and one by one, chapter by chapter, the Epilogue completes the characters and relationships. I'm not exactly happy about how he treated some of the characters, but It's not my book. McMurtry builds up characters, then tears them down in the most vile manner. I do think that McMurtry is in love with the stereotypes of hookers with a heart of gold and/or smart hookers leaving their "careers" and becoming heroic and put on pedestals.

I loved Lonesome Dove so much I couldn't imagine the sequel being just as good, but I was hooked on the first chapter. McMurtry's writing is excellent and makes you feel as if you are actually on the trail in Texas and Mexico. It also gave me a lot of sympathy for Mexican women and how they were treated (by both male Mexicans and male Americans) -- it was a real eye opener

Oh, Larry McMurtry, how I love thee. I devoured the entire series in like, a week. His writing style is so descriptive, and keeps you guessing without being too predictable. I love that it's set in Texas, as I live here, and I've always wondered about the names of places like Goodnight Ranch. Do yourself

a favor, READ THIS SERIES.

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