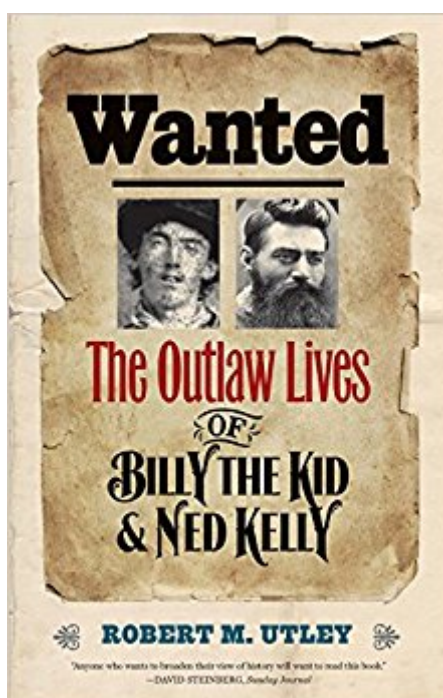


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# Wanted: The Outlaw Lives Of Billy The Kid And Ned Kelly (The Lamar Series In Western History)



## Synopsis

A renowned biographer compares the lives and times of American outlaw Billy the Kid and his Australian counterpart Ned Kelly. The oft-told exploits of Billy the Kid and Ned Kelly survive vividly in the public imaginations of their respective countries, the United States and Australia. But the outlaws' reputations are so weighted with legend and myth, the truth of their lives has become obscure. In this adventure-filled double biography, Robert M. Utley reveals the true stories and parallel courses of the two notorious contemporaries who lived by the gun, were executed while still in their twenties, and remain compelling figures in the folklore of their homelands. Robert M. Utley draws sharp, insightful portraits of first Billy, then Ned, and compares their lives and legacies. He recounts the adventurous exploits of Billy, a fun-loving, expert sharpshooter who excelled at escape and lived on the run after indictment for his role in the Lincoln County War. Bush-raised Ned, the son of an Irish convict father and Irish mother, was a man whose outrage against British colonial authority inspired him to steal cattle and sheep, kill three policemen, and rob banks for the benefit of impoverished Irish sympathizers. Utley recounts the exploits of the notorious young men with accuracy and appeal. He discovers their profound differences, despite their shared fates, and illuminates the worlds in which they lived on opposite sides of the globe.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A marvelous dual biography of the most famous outlaws of their time. Even though the Kid

hailed from New Mexico and Kelly from Australia, Utley ably draws distinctive parallels between their lives. A classic study for the ages. — Douglas Brinkley, author of *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America* (Douglas Brinkley) — “Robert M. Utley displays the gifts that have made him a storied interpreter of the nineteenth-century west. With all the crackling drama that defined Billy and Ned’s action-packed lives, he deftly illuminates each man’s character and sets his life against the background of wider conflicts over money, power, and race. Utley shows how each was, in his own violent way, extraordinary. — T. J. Stiles, author of *The First Tycoon*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award (T.J. Stiles) — “Brilliant idea! Billy the Kid and Ned Kelly didn’t have a lot in common, but together they make one helluva book. What makes this comparison test fascinating is that the author gives you the facts and leaves you to decide for yourself. I’m still working on it. — Frederick Nolan, author of *The West of Billy the Kid* (Frederick Nolan) — “Any book by the dean of western narrative historians is cause for celebration. Such is the case here. No one has written a book comparing one of the western demigods with a comparable legendary character from another culture. The achievement is one of a kind. — Richard W. Etulain, author of *The Life and Legends of Calamity Jane* (Richard W. Etulain) — “Can a people be defined by the iconic outlaws they embrace? Historian Robert M. Utley tackles that question and many others in this enlightening comparison of the two most famous bad boys produced by the former British colonies of the United States and Australia. Utley, as usual, brings the past to life with graceful prose and powerful insights. — Paul Andrew Hutton, Distinguished Professor, University of New Mexico (Paul Andrew Hutton) — “Outlaws or heroes, Billy the Kid and Ned Kelly have become immortal in their respective countries’ folklore. Utley does an admirable job of describing how two young men, at odds with the authorities, could rise to such renown after their deaths. — Glen Seeber, Oklahoman (Glen Seeber *The Oklahoman*) — “Anyone who wants to broaden their view of history will want to read this book of comparative biographies of one of America’s prominent historians. — David Steinberg, *Sunday Journal* (David Steinberg *The Sunday Journal*) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Robert M. Utley is an award-winning author of twenty-one books on western American history including *Geronimo* and *The Last Days of the Sioux Nation*. He lives in Scottsdale, AZ.

As promised and quick delivery.

Interesting comparison of two contemporaries who led lives of crime but with different personalities.

Great book, by a prolific and accomplished author. Price, delivery, condition all excellent

Informing

If you have a keen interest in finding out more about two notorious outlaws, Robert Utley's *Wanted: The Outlaw Lives of Billy the Kid and Ned Kelly* will keep you engaged. Both were infamous and led colourful short lives. Many are familiar with the exploits of Billy the Kid due to the numerous Hollywood movies, but Ned Kelly of Australia may be less well known. Utley includes interesting maps and period photos to enhance his research and tales of both men. During the Beechworth hearing, Ned Kelly's lawyer spoke with his client and Ned said, "All I want is a full and fair trial, and a chance to make my side heard. Until now, the police have had all the say, and have it their own way. If I get a full and fair trial, I don't care how it goes; but I know this the public will see that I was hunted and hounded on from step to step; they will see that I am not the monster I have been made out. What I have done has been under strong provocation. (p. 175, from ARC of the book) Thank you GoodReads for the ARC of the book.

Fascinating, well-written tales about the Wild West days of the southwest and outback, with maps and pictures too. Found myself strangely sympathetic with the two outlaw heroes and turned off by the unethical, wheeler-dealer authorities who turned them into scapegoats. A worthwhile book for anyone interested in how the the west was settled, particularly in Arizona and New Mexico, and how defiant men of action have influenced the national identities of the U.S. and Australia. Great gift for cowboy-culture enthusiasts and history buffs.

This was an interesting read but not one that totally grabbed me. I'm unsure why Billy the Kid has the name he has whereas with Ned Kelly it stands out that he was a real rebel and regardless of your point of view, courageous to the end. This book is one to take you on a journey to other readings or research. It is concisely written; other authors would take you deeper into each man's life. For me Kelly was the more interesting and his suit of armour to protect him against the bullets of the police made him unique in bandit history.

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