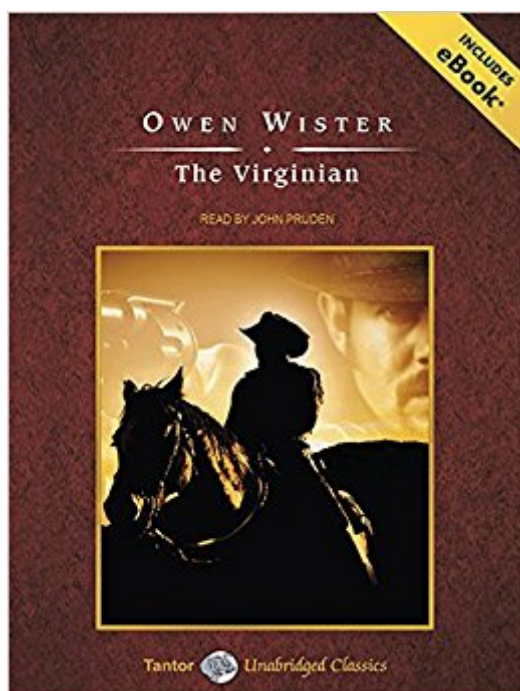


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The Virginian: A Horseman Of The Plains (Tantor Unabridged Classics)



Synopsis

A strong, silent stranger rides into the lawless lands of the western frontier, battles horse thieves, deals with unyielding scoundrels, and wins the heart of a schoolmarm. Owen Wister's 1902 classic—the first great novel of the American West—is rich in moral drama and vernacular wit. His hero-like knights of old—lives by an enduring code of chivalry and is governed by quiet courage and a deep sense of honor. Set in the vast Wyoming territory, this masterpiece helped establish the code of the West and its stereotypical characters: the genteel but brave cowboy, the pretty spinster from back East, and villains beyond redemption. The novel is also on record for incorporating the first known "shootout" in American literature. In 1977, *The Virginian* was voted by the Western American Writers as the greatest western novel of all time. Brimming with action, romance, and atmosphere, it remains a classic of frontier fiction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Owen Wister (1860-1938) is the author of *The Virginian*, the most popular Western ever, as well as numerous short stories, operas, plays, poetry, and nonfiction, including biographies of Ulysses S. Grant and George Washington. John Pruden is a professional voice actor who records audiobooks, corporate and online training narrations, animation and video game characters, and radio and TV commercials. An AudioFile Earphones Award winner, John has a solid creative foundation from which to draw for his intelligent audiobook narrations.

I mean it! You really could! It's the kind of book you read, and then come back to a month later, just for enjoyment :) I've read the book before, but I decided I wanted my own copy. In the book, unlike the TV series (which I also love), Trampas is a bad - dark mustache - sinister - guy. The Virginian and he have an ongoing feud. I'm glad that they changed this in the TV show, but in the book, it works. On TV, the main emphasis seems to be on the Virginian and Trampas, while in the book, the main subject is the Virginian and his girl, Molly. The show used many of the ideas in the book. If you've even seen the show, you'll be reading the book, and you'll come to a part, and suddenly, it'll be like, "Oh! I remember that from season 3," and vice versa. You might be watching the show, and see a certain part (especially season 1), and be like, "That's from chapter 2!" At any rate, it's a great story. It's easy to see how Owen Wister broke the ice with this one. My copy arrived today in excellent condition. I love it. Nice work, publisher people.

"The Virginian's pistol came out, and his hand lay on the table, holding it unaimed. And with a voice as gentle as ever, the voice that sounded almost like a caress, but drawling a very little more than usual, so that there was almost a space between each word, he issued his orders to the man Trampas: 'When you call me that, smile.' And he looked at Trampas across the table." This novel, the first true western that paved the way for other famous authors such as Zane Grey and Louis L'Amour, covers a span of five years and chronicles the acquaintance of the unnamed author/narrator with a strong, silent stranger known only as "The Virginian," a young man in his twenties who works on Judge Henry's Shiloh Ranch at Sunk Creek in the Wyoming territory. The account begins when the narrator arrives in Medicine Bow, WY, around 1886, to visit Judge Henry and the Virginian is sent to escort him to Shiloh. During the succeeding years, the Virginian, who was born in old Virginia but had left home at age fourteen and come west, woos the pretty Miss Molly Stark Wood, who comes from Bennington, VT, to be the school teacher at Bear Creek, WY; is made foreman at Shiloh Ranch; and must deal with an ongoing enemy named Trampas, a roving cowboy who works for a while at Shiloh then turns to rustling. Will the Virginian win Miss Wood's affection? What will happen to Trampas? When I was young and still living at home, I remember seeing a television show also entitled *The Virginian* (1962-1971), based on characters from this novel. It starred James Drury as the Virginian, Doug McClure as Trampas, and Lee J. Cobb as the Judge. However, the television series bore little resemblance to the plot of the book. The Virginian is an interesting story in which several subplots develop over time. There are numerous references to smoking tobacco, drinking alcohol, gambling, and dancing. In addition to several instances in which "curses," "oaths," and "profanities" are mentioned, the "d" and "h" words occur a few times and the

Lord's name is occasionally taken in vain. The phrase "son of a ----" is used as quoted (not spelled out). In fact, this is what Trampas had called the Virginian when the latter responded, "When you call me that, smile." The nearly equivalent term "ba*t*ard" is found once (completely spelled out). Nathaniel Bluedorn recommended the book in *Hand that Rocks the Cradle: 400 Classic Books for Children*, but I would urge great caution with younger children unless done as a read aloud where the offending language could be easily edited out. Otherwise, it does present a good, balanced viewpoint of what young manhood should be, with both toughness when needed and gentleness when required.

This is a classic western and if you love western as I do, it's a great book. Most of the characters are pretty easy to understand and they are pretty predictable but the main character is complex and interesting. Great morality story.

Predictable only because this is the model that created the whole genre. Owen Wister wrote a western that still stands up well after decades of writers trying to copy his work or better it. I like the dialogue as it is much closer to the actual speech patterns of 19th century people - this is just a few years after the Civil War remember. Well worth reading this classic American novel.

The book is a masterpiece. The author's use of metaphor, description, and characterization is superb. He seems more interested in characterization than action. One interesting twist is that you never are told the name of the main character, or of the narrator for that matter although you are told the name of his horse, and the names of more minor characters and even of a chicken. The name of the Virginian was not important. His character was. I liked the reader too. My only complaint was in the mixing. The reader used different voices for different characters, which was well done and helped the listener follow the story but at times if the volume was set so one character's voice was not uncomfortably loud, another character could not be heard. Once, after repeating one place several times without being able to make out a word of the dialogue of a female character, I played it once again with my hand on the volume knob. As soon as the loud character finished his line, I cranked the volume way up and could hear the female voice clearly. This should have been adjusted in the mixing. Also, sometimes a track would not play through, so I had to skip forward to the next track. All said, I greatly enjoyed this book.

Terrible printing can hardly read it don't waste your money I don't know why they would sell this bad

quality book

I was afraid this would be another clunky cowboy melodrama. Not at all. Wister's a sophisticated writer, even a bit like Henry James in his take on people and their manners, though not like James in his prose style. This isn't a cowboy romance so much as a "romance" involving an innately canny and socially ambitious ranch hand who becomes a foreman and, through an insightful and well conducted courtship of an educated New England woman, a successful land and mine owner too. Lots of epic cowboy elements here, apparently many of them for the first time, but they lead in a different direction than in other cowboy literature I've read. I'd say there's also a subtextual current of the narrator, a New England man much like the wife-to-be in all but gender, being pretty enamored of the ranch hand. Poignant.

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