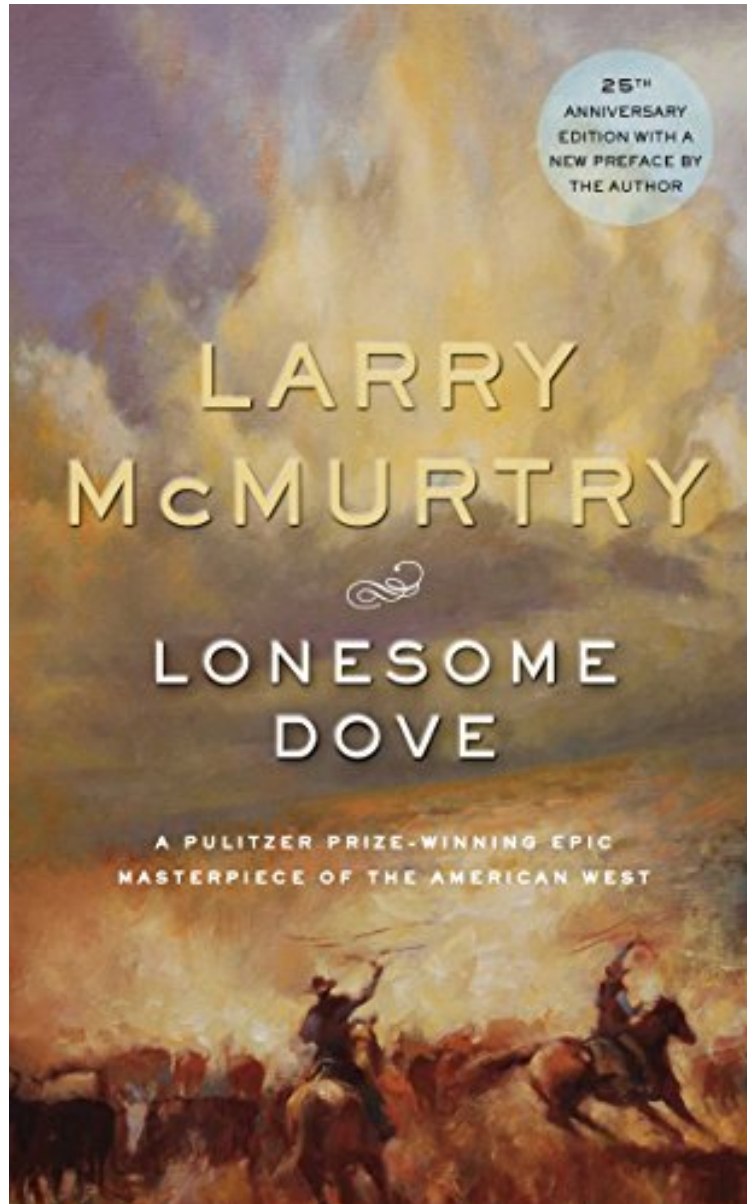


[Free read ebook] Lonesome Dove: A Novel

## Lonesome Dove: A Novel

Von Larry McMurtry

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**Von Larry McMurtry : Lonesome Dove: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lonesome Dove: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. BEST OF THE WESTVon Stuart W. MirskyThe Western in the latter part of the twentieth century has become almost a

forgotten form. True there's been an ongoing pulp tradition in genre fiction reflecting the shoot-em ups of old, cowboys Indians, and the like, but the days of the big screen Westerns out of Hollywood, the Western tv series on the little screen, the days when the Western informed our American mythos, have seemed to slip inexorably behind us. Until Larry McMurtry gave us LONSEOME DOVE, that is. With this one big historical novel, McMurtry merged the Westerns of old again with serious literature, both historical and mainstream. Here is the story of two aging Texas rangers in the days when the frontiers of Texas are fading fast before the onslaught of civilization, caught, as in a time warp, in the sleepy border town of Lonesome Dove. They are bored, aimless men, drinking too much or working too much or just plain remembering (and trying to forget) too much. Augustus MacCrae, the drinker cum gambler cum whore-crazy old adventurer and his lifelong friend, ranger captain Woodrow Call, a man who drives himself and others too hard by half, jointly run a shoe-string ranching operation just outside of the little border town and both have gotten themselves into something of a rut. For Call the ranch and its horses are pretty much everything. For MacCrae they are barely anything at all. But the two friends stay together like old lovers for want of anywhere else to go or anything else to do. Until Call gets it into his head to make their fortunes by a big cattle drive up to the newly opened country of Montana. There things are still wild, he has heard, and the country still wide enough and empty enough for the taking. Room enough for two old adventurers who have had trouble adjusting to the world in Texas which their tough rangers over the years has brought an unforeseen and, perhaps, unwelcome peace. For, in fact, these men miss the old days, as folks do when they are getting on and have seen their best years fall behind them. And so to reclaim what they have lost, these two, or Call, more precisely, with Gus MacCrae tagging along, engineer one last cattle drive to the new country in the north. And thus begins an epic trek, equal to any of the great tales of the past, in which these two gauntly heroic figures and their motley crew of hangers-on undertake to reclaim the glorious past and to make a place for themselves in the uncertain future. This is a tale of heroic anti-heroes certainly, for Gus is a likeable enough cad who loves adventuring more than the people his life touches and Call is a man who is tragically out of touch with himself and those around him. Both have done terrible harm to the people, and especially the women, whose paths have crossed theirs over the years. And yet, these men are giant figures, men who stride purposefully over those obstacles which chance and the ill-will of others may throw in their way. The "road" north is fraught with sudden, senseless violence, with clumsy judgements and human treachery and yet neither Call nor Gus flinch from what they find, imposing their own harsh, if fair, sense of justice on a wild and lawless land. This is an American odyssey, a tale of searching and finding and losing, writ large against the landscape of the vanishing American west, a fitting epic to celebrate the strengths and tragic flaws which inform the American character no less than the spirit which defines our very humanity. It is a tale intended to shatter mythic stereotypes and yet one which succeeds in making them fresh and real again. It is a tale of pain and hardship and lost men and women who yet struggle valiantly to find and save themselves in a harsh world not of their own making. It is a uniquely American tale and a western in the grandest tradition. McMurtry deserves the accolades he has received for this book.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An epic portrayal of the American West.Von Ein KundeAlot can be said in 843 pages of text. Fortunately for English students everywhere this isn't 843 pages of *The Great Gatsby* or *The Scarlet Letter*. *Lonesome Dove* is 843 pages of gun slinging, whiskey drinking, bar brawling, hair scalping, whore chasing, bandit hanging, western action. Though the book does contain a great amount of action, suspense and violence to keep the reader compelled to read on, it has other elements that make it a great novel as well. In most novels characters are painted by merely describing what they look like and how they talk funny. *Lonesome Dove* is not like most novels however, McMurtry actually describes each character in immense detail, by telling the reader what it is that they are thinking or even what their philosophy on life is. McMurtry describes characters in such detail that the reader feels as if they were living inside that character's mind. The reader feels along with the character, be it being scared to death of a giant Indian that haunts your sleep or envisioning an enormous horde of grasshoppers surrounding everything you see, only to be thinking of what Call will do to you after he finds out how you have failed him. By letting the reader experience everything first hand, *Lonesome Dove* transforms a boring book on the American West into an exciting book that becomes hard to put down, even if for 843 pages. While abundant in *Lonesome Dove*, death is not something without an effect on the reader. Almost every death in the book is either ironic or unexpected, and gives the reader a monumental sense of loss as though they are one of the Hat Creek Outfit losing a good friend. In fact great men are often killed by young boys in a matter of irony. Elements of nature that don't even pop into one's mind as even being considered as a servant of death kill men and strike fear into others. By giving the reader this great attachment with characters, McMurtry makes death an emotional struggle for the reader. In some books a character will die and it has no effect whatsoever on the reader at all. In *Lonesome Dove* on the other hand, a death makes the reader want to read on to see that the Hatcreek Outfit kills him to seek revenge for this character, or to even cheer at an "evil" character's death. *Lonesome Dove* is filled with detailed descriptions of dynamic characters, beautiful surrounding terrain and tense situations of character's struggles to survive the West. McMurtry wrote this book to re-enlighten the idea of the American West in the minds of readers, and he succeeded in doing just that and then some. While some of the content, such as the torture of men by Indians and certain situations involving prostitution may not be the content that some people may look for in a book, I highly recommended this to anyone willing to read through the 843 pages.1 von 1

Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. *Lonesome Dove: A story of the True west* Von Lance McCarver *Lonesome Dove* is set in a popular background to all southerners: the Old West. John Wayne movies and stories of Billy the Kid and Jesse James have managed to mythologize the Old West as a dreamland where outlaws become heroes and women are heavenly. Larry McMurtry eliminates this feeling of myth by portraying the west the way it really was. He reveals his many truths about the Old West through several main characters. They include two retired Texas Rangers, a young prostitute, and several cowboys, young and old. Through this cast of characters, McMurtry illustrates the hardships of the Old West. He also includes underlying themes such as friendship and coincidence. He switches back and forth in the novel between the two settings, the cattle drive, and a small farm on the prairie. Coincidentally, these two paths often meet. McMurtry begins with the Rangers and Cowboys. He illustrates the hardships of the west by depicting realistic problems of the old west. Stampedes and torrential weather are unpredictable and frequent. Bandits and Indians often prey on the innocent. As the cowboys go through thunderstorms, clouds of locusts, stampedes, and deadly outlaws, the reader quickly forgets the easy life of the Old West myth. The cowboys are not fearless warriors, many are frightened of fording rivers, and fighting grizzly bears. The women aren't all lady-like. Many are prostitutes who are rough around the edges, and don't really care about anyone but themselves. Most important of all, no one is immortal. Death follows the cattle drive all the way to Montana. McMurtry often resorts to graphic portrayals to get his point across. Descriptions of scalped innocents, and other more personal topics depict the Old West as far from dreamy. However, through all these hardships, McMurtry still manages to tell the good side of life in that time. The friendships the men attain, the love of the ladies, and the adventure makes the story just that much better. As he switches from character to character, McMurtry also writes that particular persons thoughts, which allow the reader to see every point of view of the situation. The older men see it as a job, the younger boys as an exciting adventure, and the women as a needless expenditure. The women would just as soon settle anywhere. McMurtry also manages to add love into this fray. Through the storms, stampedes, and abductions, love is still abundant. This is one of the many truths illustrated in the story. The novel is organized into three parts and one hundred and two chapters. He switches between the two settings smoothly, and keeps the story flowing well. The action is almost nonstop, and makes it hard to put the book down. The only difficulty that some may encounter is length. Nine hundred and forty five pages can seem daunting to some. However, the realism, characters, and truth make this novel into a great epic that is extremely enjoyable to read.

**Kurzbeschreibung** A love story, an adventure, and an epic of the frontier, Larry McMurtry's Pulitzer Prize winning classic, *Lonesome Dove*, the third book in the *Lonesome Dove* tetralogy, is the grandest novel ever written about the last defiant wilderness of America. Journey to the dusty little Texas town of Lonesome Dove and meet an unforgettable assortment of heroes and outlaws, whores and ladies, Indians and settlers. Richly authentic, beautifully written, always dramatic, *Lonesome Dove* is a book to make us laugh, weep, dream, and remember..de Larry McMurtry, in books like *The Last Picture Show*, has depicted the modern degeneration of the myth of the American West. The subject of *Lonesome Dove*, cowboys herding cattle on a great trail-drive, seems like the very stuff of that cliched myth, but McMurtry bravely tackles the task of creating meaningful literature out of it. At first the novel seems the kind of anti-mythic, anti-heroic story one might expect: the main protagonists are a drunken and inarticulate pair of former Texas Rangers turned horse rustlers. Yet when the trail begins, the story picks up an energy and a drive that makes heroes of these men. Their mission may be historically insignificant, or pointless--McMurtry is smart enough to address both possibilities--but there is an undoubted valor in their lives. The result is a historically aware, intelligent, romantic novel of the mythic west that won the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for fiction..com Larry McMurtry, in books like *The Last Picture Show*, has depicted the modern degeneration of the myth of the American West. The subject of *Lonesome Dove*, cowboys herding cattle on a great trail-drive, seems like the very stuff of that cliched myth, but McMurtry bravely tackles the task of creating meaningful literature out of it. At first the novel seems the kind of anti-mythic, anti-heroic story one might expect: the main protagonists are a drunken and inarticulate pair of former Texas Rangers turned horse rustlers. Yet when the trail begins, the story picks up an energy and a drive that makes heroes of these men. Their mission may be historically insignificant, or pointless--McMurtry is smart enough to address both possibilities--but there is an undoubted valor in their lives. The result is a historically aware, intelligent, romantic novel of the mythic west that won the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.