

Synopsis

Cowboy stories and movies about the Wild West are full of amazing characters. Yet many of the lawmen we think of as heroes were anything but - some were violent scoundrels and outlaws themselves. Among all the lawmen of the frontier, one man stands out as a true hero: Bass Reeves. In his day, Bass Reeves was the most successful federal marshal in the United States. True to the mythical code of the West, he never drew his gun first. He rounded up hundreds of outlaws and was shot at countless times but was never hit. Bass Reeves was born into slavery. And though the laws of his country enslaved him and his mother, when he became a free man he served the law with such courage and honor that he was known and respected all over the Indian Territory. Gary Paulsen's dramatic account of the life of Bass Reeves, through stories both real and imagined, makes him come alive as a boy and a man. Listeners will truly understand why he became a legend.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Nice easy read. Obviously though the author embellished a lot of his earlier life which I'm not sure how I feel about honestly....especially the earlier cringe worthy dialogue of him talking to his mother in a faux African American slave dialect supposedly...however luckily after the book progressed beyond that it was a good read. Still baffled though that many of the more unbelievable yet true amazing facts about the man didn't make it into this book. Which is weird because I'd have taken that over the made up b.s backstory that was added. Any beef I have with the book would be just

that. Other than that gripe (which can be major depending on what you're expecting from the book) it's entertaining and a nice introduction to a great man....However it's not the best historical representation of he and his feats but serves as decent intro to someone who is just learning about him or for someone younger such as school children. I read it in one night.

Saw the special about him on the History channel. Got this for my husband who was interested in learning more. As he is a non-reader I was surprised and thrilled to see him avidly reading. He enjoyed it and is almost finished. It's not a thick book and is full of interesting bits.

A fine book for preteens and younger. The author has a unique agenda. He in the first chapter belittle all the great names of the Old West as a variety of scoundrels and village idiots all of them being caucasian Americans. Then in his book with 30% of it a sheer fantasy he tries to explain how Bass Reeves became one of the greatest lawmen in the West. I agree with all the factual data about this awesome and amazing Afro-American deputy marshal and his fantastic reputation. Definitely a character that was overlooked by history because of race.

A great unsung hero given his due. A great snapshot of his difficult early life as a young slave and son of a slave in early 1800s NE Texas. Geared toward Young Adult readers but adults will love it. Only drawback: Wishing there was enough of his story known to make a longer more details book. For African-American dads this is a great book to help you talk to your children about the topic of slavery and what kind of man should be a role model for black males.

Good read but way too short. Could have gone into much more detail but still enjoyable.

I bought this book for my nephew but I know he loves it because he requested it.

As far as factual information book is a lightweight easy read.

Mr. Paulsen admits that there is not a lot of historical fact written about this remarkable sheriff . Still, he weaves a well written account of Bass Reeves' legendary career as a law officer, by combining fact and fiction.. This book would be at home in any school library and would make a good study subject for middle school students. There is not a lot written about Negroes as heroes in the old west. This is a man who was one in every sense of the word. His remarkable arrest record was far

and away above all others in his chosen profession. He managed this with remarkable skill, intuition and sheer determination to do his duty as a man of the law. Reading about him makes me wish I had met him.

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