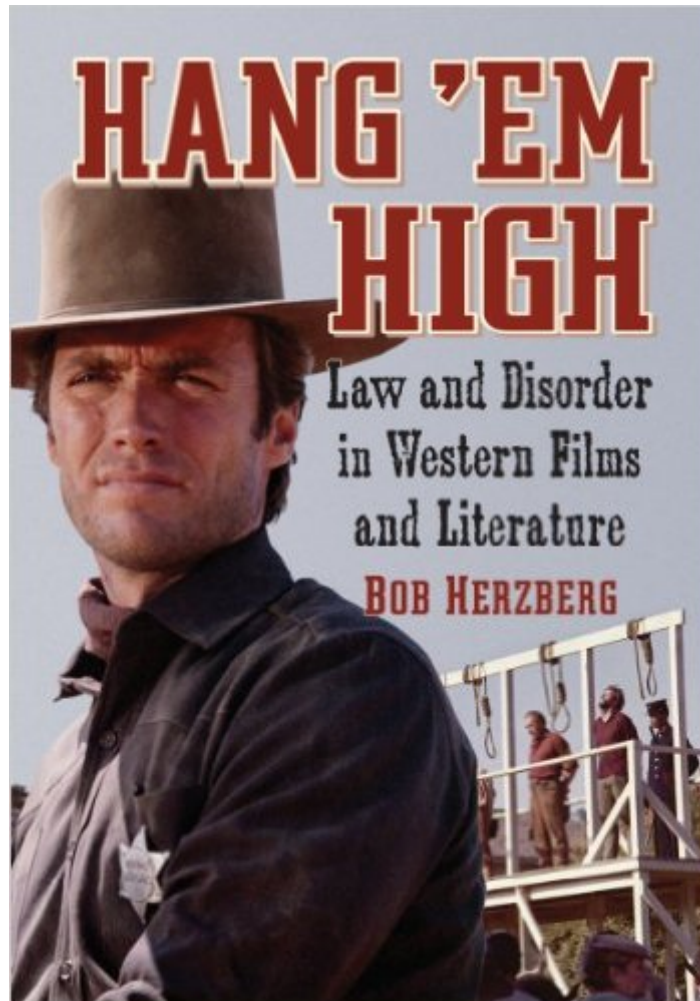


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Hang 'Em High: Law And Disorder In Western Films And Literature



Synopsis

For more than a century the Western film has proven to be an enduring genre. At the dawn of the 20th century, in the same years that The Great Train Robbery begat a film genre, Owen Wister wrote The Virginian, which began a new literary genre. From the beginning, both literature and film would usually perpetuate the myth of the Old West as a place where justice always triumphed and all concerned (except the villains) pursued the Law. The facts, however, reflect abuses of due process: lynch mobs and hired gunslingers rather than lawmen regularly pursued lawbreakers; vengeance rather than justice was often employed; and even in courts of law justice didn't always prevail. Some films and novels bucked this trend, however. This book discusses the many Western films as well as the novels they are based on, that illustrate distortions of the law in the Old West and the many ways, most of them marked by vengeance, in which its characters pursued justice.

Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: McFarland; First Edition edition (August 28, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786468386

ISBN-13: 978-0786468386

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.9 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,267,293 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #215 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Adaptations #1307 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Genre Films #3945 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Film & Television

Customer Reviews

Really great book and very comprehensive - its a fantastic description of the western genre and very comprehensive - discusses movies that you have heard of and many that you hadn't. The author clearly knows what he is doing - I highly recommend.

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