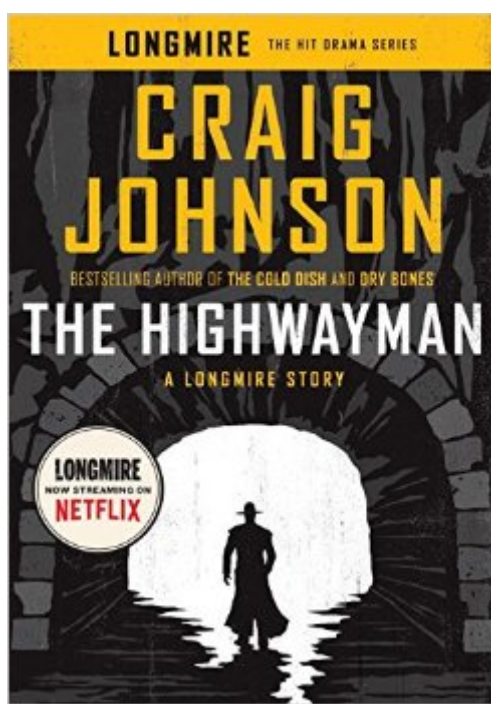


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The Highwayman: A Longmire Story



Synopsis

Sheriff Walt Longmire and Henry Standing Bear embark on their latest adventure in this novella set in the world of Craig Johnson's New York Times bestselling Longmire series—the basis for the hit drama *Longmire*, now on Netflix. Craig Johnson's next novel in the Longmire series, *An Obvious Fact*, will be available from Viking in September 2016. When Wyoming highway patrolman Rosey Wayman is transferred to the beautiful and imposing landscape of the Wind River Canyon, an area the troopers refer to as no-man's-land because of the lack of radio communication, she starts receiving an officer needs assistance calls. The problem? They're coming from Bobby Womack, a legendary Arapaho patrolman who met a fiery death in the canyon almost a half-century ago. With an investigation that spans this world and the next, Sheriff Walt Longmire and Henry Standing Bear take on a case that pits them against a legend: The Highwayman.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (612 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Another great Longmire tale, way too short, but then, it is a novella. I had the good fortune to meet Craig Johnson at the Elmer Kelton festival in San Angelo, TX. He is as good a speaker as he is writer, labeling himself as a western writer with elements of mystery, rather than a mystery writer with a western setting. His Longmire series is very much set in place, and this novella is no exception. Longmire goes to the aid of an officer he knows who, since moving to her new location, has been receiving messages from a dead trooper via radio. The story unfolds with revelations about the death of another trooper thirty some years before, Elements of legend and, perhaps, the

spirit world hover at the edge of the resolution. Outstanding read; I finished it in one sitting.

Given that "The Highwayman" is Craig Johnson's 3rd so-called novella it's surprising to see the number of 1 & 2 star reviews that primarily gripe about the short story format. Personally, I think this is a nice idea where the author can take concepts that either didn't fit into one of his full length stories or wasn't rich enough to support a stand alone novel and still share it with his readers. The other common complaint from the poor reviews is the price; well it is a hard cover book despite the smaller dimensions and page count so you'd expect to pay more just for the binding. Content wise this is classic Longmire fare that this time focuses on Walt and long time friend Henry Standing Bear much like "The Spirit of Steamboat" dealt primarily with Lucian and Walt. These small tales give Johnson a chance to do some further character development without the distractions of the other cast of regulars. I'm not a fan of the Walt and the spirit world elements of this series but this still was an enjoyable way to pass a few hours. Seeing the stalwart sheriff and his trust pal investigate a seemingly impossible reappearance of a long dead highway patrolman was entertaining enough. Of course, the nearly 70 year old Walt nearly gets killed more than once in seemingly unlikely ways but this is a work of fiction. If you like Longmire and know going in that it's NOT a full length book then get this novella. Others take heart, the next full story, "An Obvious Fact" releases on 13 September according to [this link](#) and is available for pre-order.

I love Craig Johnson's idea of a ghost story. Walt always tries to explain the unexplainable even when it happens to him. Rosey's experience with the spirit of a fallen trooper falls in line with Walt's own experience with the camp of the dead and Virgil Whitehorse.

The Wind River Canyon Ghost Evokes Memories of My Youth and Brings Alive the Wyoming Region Near Shoshone & Thermopolis
Quick & Dirty Highlights
Walt Longmire is my favorite uniformed investigator. Second favorite is Lei (by Toby Neal). Only one other investigator beats either and that is James Rockford. Period.
Over a course of 201 pages, or 3 hours and 43 minutes, Walt Longmire spins a tale of the Wind River Canyon ghost that evokes so many memories of my own youth - not my experiences so much as the experience relayed to my high school Social Studies class by Mr. Cross, at Lynwood High in California. He always swore his story about his encounter with Marcy in the hills of Pennsylvania was gospel truth. My point is, based partly on that story, I'm always open to good ghost stories. What lends so much credibility is Walt's interplay with his best friend, the Cheyenne Nation and an old Arapaho woman. I abhor spoilers so won't go into

greater detail here, but this is a bit of a departure from most Longmire stories, but, he yet, it's style is very much rooted in the other tales of the sheriff who keeps his (fictional) county safe and peaceful. I highly recommend listening to the story on 's Tap, by the way.Length: Print, 201 pages; Audible format, 3 hours 43 minutes.Target Audience/Genre: Mystery-Suspense.Q - How was this book obtained?A - Purchased both the Kindle & the Audible version during pre-order stage.Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first?A " Yes, but I seriously doubt you will read this and the NOT read all the others in the series.Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures?A " No.Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read?A " I read this in one day using my Mini iPad and my Tap.Q - What sort of language does this writer use to amplify the points made?A " Small number of mild profanities. No f-bombs.Q - What age group is this suitable for?A - If this were a film it would be rated PG.Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment?A - Walt Longmire is my favorite sheriff; Craig Johnson is my favorite mystery writer and, in Audible, George Guidall is my favorite narrator.I've included a small excerpt below, so readers can peruse the style of presentation utilized by the author.EXCERPT"There's nothing out there but Monument Hill Cemetery.I didn't say anything."Where Bobby's buried.I rested the Red Ryder in my lap for lack of targets. "You ever have anything strange happen to you?He thought about it for a while, watching the smaller birds come in and take advantage of the magpies' absence. "Back in 2000, WYDOT was painting the center strips, and we had to ride along in front of them, straddling the line so some idiot didn't come around a corner and run into their trucks. Well, I'm pulling the duty, and we stop at the Tipi Camp about halfway for lunch, and one of the crew comes up and asks me to say something to the trooper who's running behind us. According to this guy, he's got his windows down and has been playing the same song over and over and would I please do something about it.I sipped my beer. "And?""Well, I tell this idiot that there isn't any other trooper, that I'm the only one on duty in...(Excerpt taken from pages 48-49, The Highwayman, by Craig Johnson, copyright 2016)Bottom Line:I have only a select few authors that I pre-order most everything they write. Toby Neal; Eden Baylee; Ken Rossignol, Stephen King and, of course, Craig Johnson.The Highwayman is one of those books that keeps the reader turning pages to find out what happens next.Five stars out of five.Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite.Thank you.

I thoroughly enjoy Walt Longmire stories. This is a dandy. Well-paced. Great story. Characters one loves. Not overly complicated plot for a novella. Very entertaining. Doesn't disappoint. If you like the Longmire stories, you'll like this one.

This. Is about as good as a novella gets No unnecessary words, no wrong words, all of the characters perfectly in character. I think Johnson's best work is in the shorter form, in short stories and the novella. Even to this born sceptic there was no problem with willing suspension of disbelief. Even if you are not a fan of westerns or ghost stories give this a try -- it transcends genre. Not to be missed!,

Craig Johnson never disappoints. The stories thrill and delight. The characters charm. And the writing continues to be superb. Every time I think the Longmire saga cannot get any better, Mr. Johnson writes another incredible adventure to take us on a journey through the realm of not only the modern day west, but the mind and spirit, as well. Another winner for all Longmire fans.

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