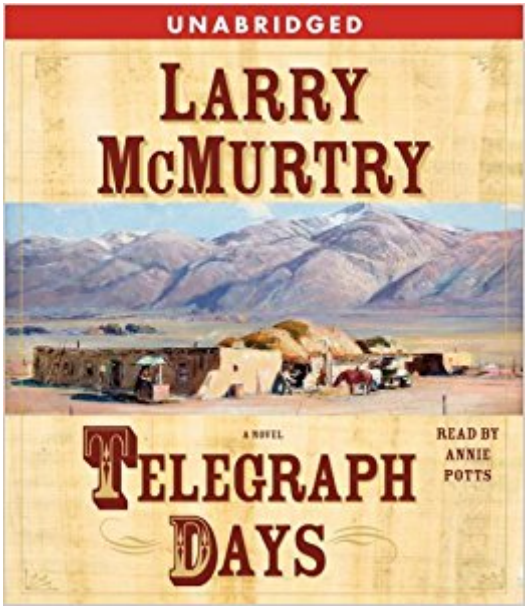
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Telegraph Days: A Novel



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Synopsis

Academy Award-winner Larry McMurtry offers his most ambitious Western novel since Lonesome Dove Nobody writes better about the West than Larry McMurtry, and in Telegraph Days he offers the big novel of Western gunfighters that people have been hoping for years he would write. When Nellie Courtright and her brother Jackson are unexpectedly orphaned by their father's suicide, they make their way to the nearby town of Rita Blanca. Once there, Jackson manages to secure a job as a sheriff's deputy, while the ever resourceful Nellie becomes the town's telegrapher. Together, they inadvertently put Rita Blanca on the map when young Jackson succeeds in shooting down all six of the ferocious Yazee brothers in a gunfight that brings him lifelong fame but which he can never repeat because his success came purely out of luck. Nellie almost conquers the heart of Buffalo Bill, the man she will love most in her long life, and goes to meet, and witness the exploits of Billy the Kid, the Earp brothers, and Doc Holliday.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Unabridged edition (June 5, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743554515

ISBN-13: 978-0743554510

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1.3 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 157 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,216,959 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (M) > McMurtry, Larry #260 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Westerns #5069 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

Customer Reviews

McMurtry's latest skips through western lore with a wry smile. Marie Antoinette "Nellie" Courtright and her brother, Jackson, bereft of family after their Virginia clan dies off one by one, arrive in Rita Blanca in 1876, in what would become the Oklahoma Panhandle, to remake themselves. Jackson is made a deputy sheriff and Nellie takes over the telegraph office. In short order, Jackson shoots down an entire gang of outlaws, and Nellie promptly writes it up to launch a lucrative literary career. Other adventures await: she becomes manager of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, boldly faces down Jesse James's attempt to rob her and witnesses the gunfight at the O.K. Corral. She becomes

mayor of Rita Blanca, a mother of six and, later, friends with Lillian Gish and William B. Mayer. Beautiful and sexually insatiable, Nellie is a witty, sophisticated, accomplished, cunning, impudent and highly improbable womanÃ¢â ¬â •more than a match for any man she meets, which isn't saying much, since they're all idiots. She also is little more than a reworking of several previous McMurtry heroines, especially The Berrybender Narratives' Tasmin. This tale is contrived, episodic and lacks cohesion, and its constant comedy is self-conscious. But most readers won't be able to help cracking a smile over McMurtry's 38th book, as purposely over-the-top as an episode of South Park. (June) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In his latest novel, McMurtry returns to his familiar theme of the mythology versus the reality of the West. Here the closing decades of the western frontier are viewed through the eyes of Nellie Courtright, who is likely to endure as one of McMurtry's most memorable and endearing heroines. As a young, orphaned girl in her early twenties, Nellie finds work as a telegraph operator in the tiny town of Rita Blanca, situated in the "no man's land" that eventually became Oklahoma. She witnesses a gunfight in which her younger brother, by pure luck, wipes out a gang of notorious outlaws. When she decides to pen a dime novel recounting the event, it launches an odyssey during which she encounters many of the icons of frontier lore. She carries on a decades-long platonic relationship with Buffalo Bill. She has repeated encounters with a surly Wyatt Earp, and she witnesses the gunfight at the OK Corral. When the frontier closes, she carves out a new life as owner of a California newspaper. This rollicking epic is filled with excitement and humor, tinged with sadness and a longing for the past. In his striving to demythologize the West, McMurtry's vision of the reality is compelling. Jay FreemanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Clearly a Larry mcmurty novel. Some laugh out loud moments. Touching moments. Interesting quirky characters. Not his very best. ... but s good book and a pleasure to read

Wonderful book, very detailed, adventure at every corner. Great vision of the true west, awesome characters, good shoot um up, love making and human nature.

McMurtry has another great book about the old west. It is well written, has interesting characters, and good plots and twists.

Good light reading

Title sounds like a mundane story, but McMurtry brings it alive from the start. Great writing style and fascinating characters keep the reader interested. McMurtry writes it in the first person, and he is a girl. It is amazing how this man’s man can think like a tough-minded-but-feminine female! The protagonist’s exploits and accomplishments as she matures in an old west Arizona town dominated by gruff cowhands and ranchers keeps the reader wondering how she’s going to get through her next challenge.

everything perfect

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excellent read

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