



Payback At Morning Peak-A Novel Of The American West

Gene Hackman

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LIFE, NOT DEATH, DROVE JUBAL YOUNG . . . but memories of his ma and pa, and his beautiful, bright sister are all he has left. Memories of the peaceful days before Jubal stumbled home with his .22, his blood running cold with fear, terror, and anger. When it was over, the homestead was half burned to the ground. Someone had to bury the bodies. Someone had to set things right.

Now, as Jubal rides west into New Mexico, he remembers his family's laughter and love, his pa's wisdom, ma's thick books, and everything that was defiled by a band of drunken renegades towed along by one man's murderous grudge. A reprobate lawman won't believe his story. A soft-hearted mountain man won't survive Jubal's one-man war. And a judge and his beautiful daughter cannot stop Jubal from climbing a peak of blood and madness: for justice, or payback, or something he can live for—or die for—redeeming.

An American film icon delivers a great American novel with *Payback at Morning Peak*. Gene Hackman, whose fiction is “rousing” (*Publishers Weekly*) and “robust” (*Winston-Salem Journal*), takes readers on a powerful and historically dead-on western odyssey in the tradition of Louis L'Amour.

Payback At Morning Peak-A Novel Of The American West Details

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Author : Gene Hackman

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From Reader Review Payback At Morning Peak-A Novel Of The American West for online ebook

Matthew Holman says

I really enjoyed reading this book. Gene Hackman, in addition to acting, is a talented author and this book proves it.

The best way I can describe this book in one statement is "in the vein of True Grit." They aren't EXACTLY alike but similar in themes like revenge and loosing people close to you. Plus they take place in a similar time period.

The book reads very smoothly and gently. If you like Western novels then this book is recommended. I believe this is the first Western novel I have ever read; I normally stick to Sci-Fi, Horror, and Non-Fiction but I gave this book a dance and found it very rewarding.

I believe this book would make a very good movie (It would be awesome if Hackman would do a cameo if it was ever made into a feature film). Hopefully Hollywood will take note here!

Again, a good book and good read...Bravo Mr. Hackman!

Celtria says

I bought this book out of curiosity because I like Gene Hackman as an actor. This is the first novel he's written on his own (previous books have been co-written with Daniel Lenihan).

It's a good Western story, with all of the characters, language, scenery and props required of the genre. A vile villain, a young protagonist, some shocks (nicely peppered through), an independent 'love-interest' and (thankfully) no sopppiness.

It trots along steadily through the plot without getting bogged down and arrives at its destination - a satisfactory (if predictable) ending.

Good book for a rainy, lazy afternoon on the sofa.

S.E. Williams says

I would like to thank Mr. Gene Hackman for this wonderful western story. Mr. Hackman brought to life the tragedy that we all go through, which leads to redemption and justice. That's what this story is for me; that you can get justice for those you care about, when their murdered. You may have to work at it, if that is what you're after, but it will come due. The bill comes due for everyone. Trying to find a character to relate to with this story was a bit difficult. At one time, I felt a connection with Sheriff Cox and hoped that I would

act as he did, if ever someone came down my trail needing a friend. Yes, Jubal's story is like our story in so many ways, maybe without the gun play. We meet people we never forget, those we wish we could forget, and then there's those we don't give a second thought. Thank you for sharing Mr. Hackman.

Janice says

I must admit that I thought the writing was excellent and the characters were recognizable, but I didn't finish the book. I found no one to connect with and just reading about bad people harming good people isn't my type of book, but then I'm female. I did enjoy the first 4 chapters but found that it was also a good place to end...so I did.

Rob Smith says

Terrific book! I nabbed it after hearing an interview with Mr. Hackman on the Dennis Miller radio program. He sounded so coy about having written his first book on his own, yet there was a certain treble of enthusiasm of the accomplishment that made me want to purchase the book just out of support. I also figured anyone who can pick as many good films rolls as Hackman has, must know a bit of how to assemble a good novel. I say he has.

I started the book only thinking of how I was reading a Gene Hackman book. Along the way, I forgot all about that and found myself wrapped up in the adventure of Jubal Young and other characters in the west in the late 1800s. Hackman does an excellent job of delivering the literary image of both main and secondary characters and their emotional depths. The sense of place is also very well laid out, something I feel is severely missing in many books written today.

Drawbacks I had was a question if a bit of the dialogue really fit the era. From what I've learned, it really doesn't, which tripped me up and had me realizing it is 2011. Otherwise, I felt like I was in the era of the novel.

A great first book entirely written by Mr. Hackman and I hope to see more in the future!

Darlene says

Yay! I won this book from GoodReads First-Reads. It came with very good review so I look forward to diving in.

* * *

Since this isn't my kind of book I have forwarded it to those that might like it. Thanks!

Louis says

Not a bad western by Gene Hackman but it still needs work. The dialogue (surprising for an old actor perhaps) is a bit stilted. While I love westerns this felt like a stock one without a twist that could have made it fun. Still a solid read and maybe gives hope that Hackman has more westerns in him and they will be better.

Robert says

The following is a First Reads giveaway winner review:

While a bit of a formulaic western, a young mans family is murdered and bent on revenge he hunts the men responsible, this is actually pretty good. The three stars shown translate out to three and a half stars. There are some rough patches here and there that I felt could use some polishing however I liked the fact that Hackman did not over embellish this story. I have read some westerns where the writers have taken liberty with the hope that their readers know absolutely nothing of western history. These writers will throw stuff into their stories that have no standing at all in the story. Hackman does not do that with this book. I found this book to be an enjoyable way to while away a few afternoons.

Tim says

I can't give this a five, but it's definitely even better than True Grit (which I also rated a 4). I was attracted to it because I always liked Gene Hackman in the movies and wanted to see what his writing was like. Well, needless to say, I hope he writes another one. It was good. If you like westerns, you'll love this book.

Brenda says

I was totally awestruck by the writing talents of Gene Hackman. He has always been one of my favorite actors, and now he is one of my favorite authors. He can spin a beautiful story without inappropriate profanity. Couldn't put the book down for long.

Sandy Neal says

Even without the sage advice in this book, it's a good story! A young man witnesses the raping and killing of his family and fights back. Then, as he remembers the advice his father has given throughout his young life, he decides to pursue justice. The choices he makes show the metal of the man he is becoming.

The back of the book likens Mr. Hackman's writing to Louis L'Mour but I think he writes more like Elmer Kelton! I hope there is another western to come from this author!

This book was received 8/2/11 as part of goodreads.com giveaway program.

Vincent Darlage says

I really enjoyed this novel. It was a strong revenge story (which I like), with literary references to novels I love (such as *The Count of Monte Cristo*), and characters I liked. The bad man was truly a horror on this Earth. I liked that the main character was at least attempting to capture the bad guys when possible. The love story was a bit added on, but it was forgivable as most Westerns seem to have the quick romance element, especially those that seem somewhat inspired by Louis L'amour-style Westerns. It was a fun novel to read.

Mark says

As always, a longer version of this review is up at www.cloquetrivierpress.com.

Why only 2 stars? Well, as great a character actor as Gene Hackman may be, if this tale is any indication of Hackman's skills as an author, he needs to spend more time learning the basics of good fiction. This Western features an implausible plot; clunky dialogue; and cartoon characters. There is no suspension of disbelief to this tale, one that is largely a rip-off of Steve McQueen's classic 1966 Western, "*Nevada Smith*". My suggestion is to rent the movie rather than read this book.

Erich Eipert says

I'll admit that I picked up this book out of curiosity to see if the former actor can write. Jubal, a 17 year old boy, is out hunting when he hears shots and notices smoke at his family's farmstead northern New Mexico. On his return he finds his family under attack by a gang of vicious outlaws. To his horror, he must first deal with the spectacle of his father gagged, trussed up, and suspended over a roaring bonfire. Jubal's mother is already dead and his sister is dying. Both have been brutally raped. The boy manages to wound and injure several of the attackers before escaping.

Jubal knows he cannot let these killers get away with their crime. But in the course of his pursuit he needs to decide who he is—a young man bent on revenge or a boy whose upbringing would settle for seeing justice done.

The dilemma haunts Jubal through the rest of the book as he encounters unsympathetic and incompetent lawmen who would rather treat him as the criminal than go after the attackers. Jubal doesn't completely give up on the legal system but knows it is up to him to hunt these men down. In time he becomes frightened by how readily he has come to rely on a gun, but regains his balance when a judge and spirited girl sees the good in him.

It is in the Cripple Creek goldfield of central Colorado that Jubal becomes a man when he confronts one of the killers. During the encounter Jubal learns that guns sometimes produce unintended consequences that can't ever be put right again. And he learns heroic acts are not always neat, clean, or appreciated when operating in the adult world with adult rules. And oh yes, Hackman did a credible job in telling the story.

kate says

Over the top bad guys pursued by a weak hero. Wishy washy Hollywood liberal ending where the hero feels guilty about killing. Why? They were vicious animals who were never going to stop raping and killing and torturing people. Man up Jubal and be glad you stopped them. Who knows how many victims you spared. Don't think I'd read anything else by this author.
