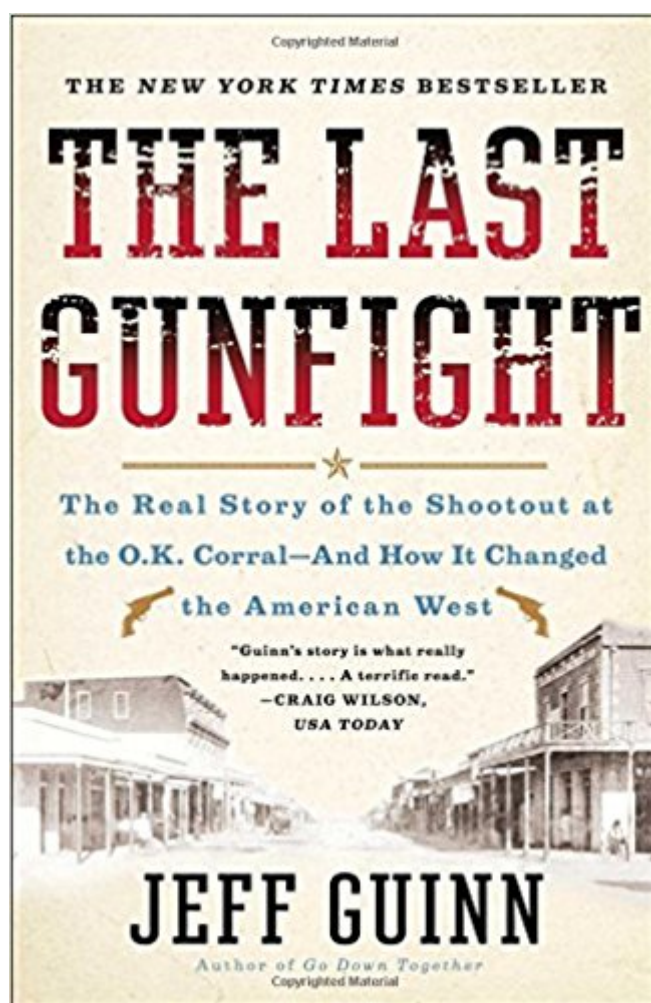


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The Last Gunfight: The Real Story Of The Shootout At The O.K. Corral-And How It Changed The American West



Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller, Jeff Guinn's definitive, myth-busting account of the most famous gunfight in American history reveals who Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, and the Clantons and McLaurys really were and what the shootout was all about. On the afternoon of October 26, 1881, in a vacant lot in Tombstone, Arizona, a confrontation between eight armed men erupted in a deadly shootout. The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral would shape how future generations came to view the Old West. Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, and the Clantons became the stuff of legends, symbolic of a frontier populated by good guys in white hats and villains in black ones. It's a colorful story—but the truth is even better. Drawing on new material from private collections—including diaries, letters, and Wyatt Earp's own hand-drawn sketch of the shootout's conclusion—as well as archival research, Jeff Guinn gives us a startlingly different and far more fascinating picture of what actually happened that day in Tombstone and why.

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Customer Reviews

"Guinn . . . delivers another double-barrel blast of history and true crime. . . . Superbly detailed . . . A thorough, thrilling account of the crime and its influence on the history of the West. . . . Absolutely buy this dazzler." --"Library Journal Express" (Starred Review) "The most thorough account of the gunfight and its circumstances ever published." --"The Wall Street Journal" "Scrupulously details how this isolated act of violence attained such heroic status. . . . A deeply researched and colorfully written history of one of those dramatic oddments of Americana that never fails to captivate us."

--Dale L. Walker, "Dallas Morning News" "Jeff Guinn took readers down the back roads of Louisiana in his book "Go Down Together: The True, Untold Story of Bonnie and Clyde." He's back in "The Last Gunfight", displaying the impeccable research that is his trademark. . . . Guinn's story is what really happened. . . . A terrific read." Craig Wilson, "USA TODAY" "A gripping revisionist account of the famed 1881 showdown. . . . Exhaustively researched, stylishly written. . . . As grimly compelling as a Greek tragedy." --"Publishers Weekly "(Starred Review)"Jeff Guinn is a straight shooter when it comes to facts. He investigated the story from every imaginable angle, separating truth from tall tale, and now he delivers a factual account of what happened--and why--that's every bit as riveting as the fantasy." --David Martindale, "Star-Telegram "(Fort Worth, TX)Advance Praise for"The Last Gunfight" "Jeff Guinn gives us not only the clashing egos and the mythic gunslingers, but also the larger social forces that converged on a roistering mining town in southeastern Arizona that fateful day in 1881. The result is a kind of anti-Western: The cliches are stripped away, the black hats removed, the 'rugged individualists' unmasked, leaving us with real human beings who are swayed and shaped by the forces of history, and trapped in time." "--Hampton Sides, author of Blood and Thunder" ""The Last Gunfight"" is a portrayal of criminality, greed, ambition, rivalry, fidelity, and law enforcement gone awry. Add in the aspects of vengeance, lust, and enduring love, and you have a riveting book every bit as good as, if not better than, "Go Down Together", Jeff Guinn's much-lauded book about Bonnie and Clyde."--Lynn R. Bailey, Tombstone historian and author of "Too Tough to Die" "Jeff Guinn has come up with a new angle and approach to the events of that bloody day in Tombstone. Without that gunfight, Wyatt Earp would have never become a household name a hundred years later. Guinn delves into the myth and separates it from the facts. A terrific read about the West's most famous lawman."--Clive Cussler"An absorbing, meticulous account of the famous O.K. Corral gunfight as it really happened. . . . Guinn places his complex and nuanced story firmly within the context of the evolving Western frontier. . . . A great story." --"Kirkus Reviews"

Jeff Guinn is a former award-winning investigative journalist and the bestselling author of numerous books, including Go Down Together: The True Untold Story of Bonnie and Clyde, The Last Gunfight: The Real Story of the Shootout at the O.K. Corral and How It Changed the West, and Manson: The Life and Times of Charles Manson. Guinn lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

You want the facts about Wyatt, Virgil, and Morgan Earp? Did Doc Holiday initiate the shots that led to the carnage? Want to know the truth about what led Billy and Ike Clinton, and the McLaury Brothers to the infamous "Gunfight at the OK Corral?" Then this is the book for you. It strips away

the Wyatt Earp myths and replaces them with the facts. Well researched and factual account of that gunfight. What drove the key players to that alley on that cool and brisk October afternoon? Was it vengeance, or murder, as some people claim? Did Doc Holliday really gun down Johnny Ringo? You gotta read this book. It will change what you thought you knew about it all.

I've read quite a few books concerning the 'Gunfight at the OK Corral' and the resulting inquiry and its aftermath; and about Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, Tombstone, and America's western frontier in general, and this is one of the better ones. The author has clearly done extensive research, perhaps over a broader range than any other western author that I have read, and knows his subject(s) well. He couples that understanding with a deep insight into human nature and seems to have an uncanny knack of putting two and two together. This has allowed him to flesh out the characters in the OK Corral saga and, by placing them in the proper context of their times, to make their decisions and actions appear logical, consistent, and appropriate to the given circumstances. This makes the story much more comprehensive and much more compelling. But at times I had to question the extent to which the author carried this approach: most particularly by putting thoughts into various people's minds to explain their actions. In a similar vein, I had some difficulty with his highly detailed description of the immediate actions preceding and during the actual gunfight. He seemed to provide much more unique and specific detail than is available anywhere else, and, in my view, some detail that I'm not sure anyone has any way of knowing. He also gives the impression that a great many people were in position to watch the actual gunfight. In all previous accounts which I have read, this was not the case and based on the testimony at the hearing wasn't the case. Having said that: It's still hard to find fault with this book or with its author. Unlike some authors, Mr. Guinn appears to have taken a fairly even handed approach to his subject, letting the chips fall where they may. The result is an excellent book which should advance many reader's knowledge of the "Gunfight at the OK Corral," and, to make things still better, it is an easy and enjoyable book to read.

I've read a lot of accounts of the Gunfight at OK Corral. I've actually visited Tombstone and the location and read contemporary newspaper accounts of the events at OK Corral, but I never really understood the politics, economics, and historical background leading up to the Gunfight until I read Jeff Guinn's outstanding book. The Gunfight, which only lasted 30 seconds, is not the whole story. To get the whole story, you have to read someone like Jeff Guinn and I can't think of a better researcher and author to do this. The myths of Wyatt Earp that have been espoused in Hollywood movies make for entertaining viewing, but if you want to know "the rest of the story", read Jeff

Guinn. Wyatt Earp, and other principal characters are very human, both heroic and not so much, and they are revealed to be much more believable characters than usually portrayed.

Compelling story told from a different angle. Well researched and tightly written. Good book!

I've been a Tombstone fan since my teen years (1970's) and I have an insatiable appetite for the history revolving around the old town (and even had fortunate opportunity to be stationed at Fort Huachuca during my Army stint and spent many weekends there). I've read the Stuart Lake biography, "And Die in the West" and all about the "O.K. Corral Shootout" trial and a lot more. THIS is the best of all the Earp Era Tombstone books I've read. I'm not saying it should be the only one you read, but it's definitely the cherry on top of my Earp Era Tombstone learning sundae. The Last Gunfight is, by the longest shot I have ever seen, the most non-partisan view of the main history of Tombstone and the Earp era there. Absolutely fantastic and clear about what actually did happen, and what is conjecture or unclear (factually speaking). It does not make the Earps and Holliday out to be haloed heroes and it does not make the Clantons and Lowry's (Lowry's, etc.) out to be evil ner-do-wells either. The author's insight is great and makes a lot of sense, it helps everything fit together in a highly plausible, and sense-making package. This definitely feels to be the most balanced account of what really happened and what led up to the big shebang in the lot behind the O.K. Corral. If I were to make a Hollywood movie, I'd prefer to go for a 6 part mini-series and this would be the firm basis that show would be based on. The Earps were just as selfish and at times "unruly" as the Cowboys may have been, but sticking more within the law than without it, where the Cowboys were a bit more on the opposite side. However, human nature is human nature and it comes through in an excellent narrative. No angels here, just real people in some hot-tempered situations that percolated into an explosive scenario. Excellently written, well-researched and heavily notated as to what is fact and what is theory. MOAR PLZ.

An Easy Read of the Whole Story drawing on New Sources With at least three full length movies about the "Gun Fight at the OK Corral", a book setting out the historical facts is long overdue. In particular, what happened after the gun fight? Did all the survivors just ride off into the sunset? Hardly. Jeff Guinn provides the whole story in extremely readable prose that has the ring of truth about it. Very Highly Recommended.

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