



Outrage at Blanco

Bill Crider

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It's True Grit meets Gran Torino in a blazingly original crime novel from Bill Crider, an Edgar and Shamus finalist and a two-time winner of the Anthony Award

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Before the sun went down, the livery stable was torched, an outlaw gang robbed the bank, two men were killed, and young newlywed Ellie Taine was raped. One of the dead was the man who planned the robbery - the son of dying, legendary Texas Ranger Jonathan Crossland - the other was Ellie's husband, an innocent bystander.

The dead don't know fear.

Ellie is dead inside. She takes a gun and rides out after the desperadoes, cold-blooded and fearless, determined to kill the men who ruined her life. She's joined by Jonathan Crossland, who only has days left to live... but would rather die in his saddle making amends for his son than rot in his bed. Together, Ellie and Jonathan set out on a mission of vengeance and justice, one that neither of them expects nor hopes to survive.

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Outrage at Blanco Details

Date : Published June 12th 2014 by Brash Books (first published 1998)

ISBN : 9781941298251

Author : Bill Crider

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Genre : Westerns, Suspense, Fiction, Action

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From Reader Review Outrage at Blanco for online ebook

Steve says

I don't know why I keep trying to read westerns. I really can't stand them.

Tucker says

I have read and enjoyed several books in the Sheriff Dan Rhodes mysteries series by Bill Crider, so I was interested to read his take on the traditional western novel. I mention traditional western, but this one is somewhat non-traditional in that it features a female protagonist. This is no "cozy" western; it contains plenty of blood and brutality but all in service of the story. A well told tale and a good way to revisit the western genre.

Thank you to Brash Books and NetGalley for an advanced copy of this book.

Tracyk says

My first Western novel (that I can remember reading) and I really enjoyed it. Very different (and darker) than the Sheriff Dan Rhodes series, but I can see some of his style in those books here. A very quick read for me too.

Ed says

Unlike most western's "Outrage at Blanco" is a fast paced tale of revenge in 1880's Texas. Strong lead characters with righteous motives pursuing vicious killers on the run make this solid crime fiction.

HornFan2 (Mike) says

It's Outrage at Blanco that made me love revenge stories so much and guess I need to thank Bill Crider for that. Reader beware Crider pulls no punches with this one.

While this one is a thrice re-read for me, but it shows how good of an author Bill Crider is that although you know what's coming, it's still gripping as the first time I read it and he puts you right on the vengeance trail with Ellie and Jonathan.

It starts with the rape of Ellie Taine but as the story develops, she becomes a tough lady who seeks vengeance for her rape and her husband's death. Ellie will end up making two evil varmints pay the ultimate price, she'll make some new friends along the vengeance trail and lives up to theme, even raises the bar on the good versus evil theme of the Western genre.

The coolest thing about *Outrage at Blanco*, is the fact that the main character Ellie, while your first impressions is that she's fragile, but as your reading, you realize just how strong, tough and one lady you don't want as an enemy.

It's refreshing to read a Western that has a tough Lady in a lead role, highly recommend this one and just wish that Bill would add some new Ellie adventures.

Rex Fuller says

“Jink Howard sat in the shade of a tree and ate tomatoes out of a can while Ben Atticks raped the woman in the wagon bed.”

That's the first sentence. Just reading it you think maybe Elmore Leonard? Or Hemingway. Or Twain. Right there from the jump it's clear as desert daylight this author knows what he's doing. Little wonder since Bill Crider's written bunches of books. The surprise is I never knew about him.

He carries the same crisp control and eye for the central drama in the first sentence all the way through to the end. A very satisfying, American western justice end.

This is good stuff. If you're like me this will be just the first of Crider's books you read.

Edwin says

A paging turning gem masterfully paced and plotted with several memorable characters and dialog that rings true throughout. Loved the unlikely alliance between the victimized woman and the dying old man, a relationship that spoke to the times and events in life that motivate us to do what we feel are the right things, as a matter of justice, or maybe vengeance, or as a last hurrah before heading to that big corral in the sky. A highly satisfying story that grabs you early and never lets go. Highly recommended for crime and/or western readers that don't mind adult themes and violence.

Fred says

Every now and then I enjoy reading a western. I started this one on Saturday and finished it on Monday! It was such an exciting book, I couldn't put it down. If you are into westerns, then I can recommend this book without reservations. The book begins with a bang and the action never lets up.

I was hook from page one! I shall certainly try to read more of Bill Crider.

S says

I gave this book as much of my attention as I could, but I just can't take it anymore. I am putting it down and walking away. The biggest turn-off for me was the opening scene. Starting out with a brutal rape scene is a bold move, but you are going to turn off a certain number of potential readers before you even pull them in

with your stellar characters or amazing storyline. I tried to keep reading and get through to the end of the story, but I just couldn't handle it any more. The opening rape colored the whole story for me in such a negative fashion, I just can't read any more.

I received a copy of this book to peruse through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Billy says

GOOD STORY, GREAT CHARACTERS, GORGEOUS LOCATION

This was an easy read western, reminds me of Saturday afternoon cowboy movies I enjoyed when I was a kid, Double feature Western's , cartoon and an action packed weekly serial, all for a quarter, of course .25 cents in 1940 had a whole lot more buying power then today's quarter. I think it was a monumental mistake when Pres. Nixon took the country off the gold standard and stopped backing our paper currency with gold in our treasury.

D.F. Haley says

I grew up reading all the Louis Lamer books and love the classic western genre. This book by Bill Crider nicely follows the logic and pacing of these types of stories, yet offers its own attractions. The tough,independent heroine and the dying rancher are fairly unique (excepting some bodice rippers where they rarely ring true).

I enjoyed the matter-of-fact tone of the story-telling and the expected plot and denouement. Well done.

Thomas says

This book was a very good western. It starts with the rape of Ellie Taine, a bank robbery and a couple of murders. The rest of the book follows Ellie as she goes after the robbers/rapists. The dialogue is crisp and the book is a compelling story. I read it in one day. Thanks to Brash books for sending me this book. I rate it 4.5 stars out of 5(rounded up to 5).

Barbara Lee Wood says

DON'T MESS WITH MINE

Meanest, disrespect and mere tint of morals are what seems to possible infuse these dregs of the human race. A son whose worthless to himself and others. Who would set up his own father whose near death, to rob the bank where his father has an account.

Raping women was well known evil act performed by whomever happened upon the chance to take advantage of a situation. Even though women and children were supposedly held in a corner of their own, they were still defiled by men and women who were suppose to protect their lives.

It's sad but, it's true in many western settlements, the far reached isolated farms were there for the plucking. Read this story and make your decision.

Martin Marais says

Wow, this book starts off with a bang, but it might be distasteful for some readers as it is a pretty gruesome rape. But once you get past that things settle down a little, although the main outlaws remain nasty pieces of work and this is cleverly contrasted with their leader, who is, of an outlaw and in contrast to the other two, quite a lovable chap! I enjoyed this novel very much. The narrative keeps you interested in both the characters and the plot. I suppose the ending is pretty predictable, but it is an interesting journey getting there. The characters are well described and become well established early on in the novel. A process helped by the good dialogue. Looking back I do not recall getting much impression of the wider setting, each scene seems quite contained and it is quite compartmentalised. One gets a sense of what is in the immediate vicinity of the players, but not the wider context. That is not a failing, simply an observation. This is well deserving of the four stars I have given it and I shall certainly read the sequel.

Col says

Synopsis/blurb.....

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My take....

A 1998 book from Bill Crider and an absolute blast. A dark Western-cum-crime novel that starts ferociously with an attack and rape of Ellie Taine and never really lets up throughout.

Naively and ill-equipped for the task in hand, Ellie's husband sets out after the culprits and soon perishes whilst they are in the middle of a bank robbery. Something inside Ellie has broken and she decides to pursue the gang herself and get herself a bit of frontier justice.

Great time frame and setting for this, interesting plot which soon sees Ellie teaming up with Jonathan Crossland – a man with more than foot in the grave already – on their chase, an interesting bunch of characters, not the least of which is Irish villain, Daniel O'Grady. O'Grady is the most likeable of our bunch of desperadoes and didn't have any involvement in the earlier rape. Moments of humour as well, especially when our thieves fall out and cross paths again.

Whilst empathising with Ellie Taine and wanting her to achieve closure, I had a hankering for O'Grady to live to fight another day. A satisfactory ending that ticked all the boxes for me.

5 from 5 and a scratch of the head, where has Bill Crider been all my reading life?

Crider originally had this published back in 1998. He released a follow up – Texas Vigilante in 1999. One to keep an eye out for I think.

Bill Crider has been a fairly prolific author over the years with a 20 plus book series starring Sheriff Dan Rhodes, as well as many others. I do wish I had discovered him 10 years ago though.

His website is here.

<http://www.billcrider.com/>

I got hold of Outrage at Blanco via Net Galley. One of my favourite publishers - Brash Books have brought this and Texas Vigilante back into print.

<http://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2015/02...>
