



The Beginning

William W. Johnstone, J.A. Johnstone

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The Greatest Western Writer Of The 21st Century

For the first time, an epic account of a boy born into a struggle for survival on the harsh and unforgiving American frontier, the story behind the legend of Smoke Jensen. . .

On the eve of the Civil War, Kirby Jensen is the youngest of three children living on a hardscrabble ranch in Southwestern Missouri. But in 1861, shots were fired in Charleston harbor, and Kirby's father and brother went to war. *Smoke Jensen The Beginning* follows the Jensen clan during these volatile years, from Civil War battles to border state raids to the kind of frontier justice achieved only by bullets and blood. William W. Johnstone chronicles the early years of Kirby Jensen--soon to be nicknamed Smoke-- as he journeys from boyhood innocence into a manhood shaped by violence and a young man's thirst for justice. Filled with actual historical events and legendary characters, the story of Smoke Jensen's early years is a powerful, brutal and amazing American saga--the crowning achievement of America's most popular living Western writer.

Also available in audio at www.GraphicAudio.net.

The Beginning Details

Date : Published September 29th 2015 by Pinnacle

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Author : William W. Johnstone , J.A. Johnstone

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From Reader Review The Beginning for online ebook

Lowell Ross says

enjoyed reading as i do all johnstone books.

Ron Hartley says

I read this book some time ago. It is your typical Smoke Jensen Story. Yes we all know they are basically "recipe" books and you can predict what is going to happen next. But they are always quick reads and entertaining. But this time, we get his history or as the comic books call it - his secret origin.

We need more western writers out there and should be happy that these books are being written.

Elizabeth says

Loved it!

Jerry Blackerby says

Another excellent book about Smoke Jensen. This one begins when Kirby Jensen is a young pre-teen about the beginning of the Civil War and brings him up to adulthood and his name of Smoke Jensen. W.W Johnstone developed a great character and trained his nephew, J.A. in the historical research to make the stories accurate and write in the style that makes them interesting books. J.A. Johnstone is doing a great job of keeping the stories going. I love all of them.

Erinn Gillespie says

https://youtu.be/cTBsFpS_7WM caution SPOILERS !!!!!!

HornFan2 (Mike) says

The good, the bad and the ugly regarding Smoke Jensen: The Beginning, is that it's a rewrite of the Smoke Jensen story and it's not true to the way William W. Johnstone's told Smoke's story.

The good is that we learn more about Smoke's younger years, pre civil war with his father Emmett, his mom pearl, his brother Luke and sister Janey.

Now the bad, anything published by J.A. Johnstone written by an anonymous ghost writer who gets no credit, gets sold using William's name, with her new series, it's hit or miss, bad editing and nothing of the quality that William wrote.

The ugly is that for myself and so many readers of William W. Johnstone Westerns. If you twisted our arm, ask us who was your favorite character, it would be 'Smoke Jensen', but I loved them all equally and fondly looked forward to his releases.

So it's pretty asinine for his niece J.A. Johnstone to basically rewrite Smoke Jensen's life. Oh she follows William's storyline, but adds events to it, that make no sense, are unrealistic or believable and even contradicts Williams own telling of Smoke.

Smoke Jensen's the last series were I have books left to read that William wrote, so I've been savoring reading them and holding off reading them slowly.

The biggest blunder with this book is that, she could have just expanded on William's storyline in the book, broke it into a volume of short stories, expanded areas that William didn't originally and would have been interesting reading to add to them. Or just started a totally new series mountain man series.

J.A. and Kensington would have kept this old diehard fan happy verse having me dedicate myself to keep reading their releases and just giving my unbiased, unfiltered honest review.

So a huge thank you to Walmart, Sam's Club for making these releases so cheap, for me to be able to afford to do this and A Novel Idea for the ones I purchase used due to them having bad reviews.

Garth Mailman says

Kirby (Smoke) Jensen was Matt Jensen's mentor and friend. In this volume we have Kirby's coming of age years on a small 40-acre family farm in Missouri during the American Civil War. Every legend has had its beginnings somewhere and this is Smokes'. Farmers in this neighbourhood had divided loyalties. They didn't hold with slave-owning and they disliked Federal Government interference. Those who didn't sign up with the armies of the North or South drifted toward guerilla raiders; the Confederates in Missouri were Bushwhackers, the Union sympathizers in Kansas were Jayhawkers. Famously the James Brothers rode with Quantril's Raiders and thus got their start switching to banks and railroads after the war. The author has Jesse James hand Smoke his first handgun carved with the initials JJ.

Only his father returns from the war slowly dying from wounds received. Smoke is taught the art of the quick draw. Leaving the farm they meet up with Preacher, a mountain man who teaches Smoke his trade which he later teaches his protégé Matt. Knowing that the Mountain Man series stretches to 45 volumes takes some of the suspense out of their exploits. The men seem to have more lives than a cat.

Judith Fellers says

Smoke Jensen, The Beginning (A Smoke Jensen Novel)

I enjoyed this book. I have read a few others by Mr. Johnstone. I intend to read more of his books.

Al Collier says

This is total TRASH! If you are a fan of Smoke, this book destroys the image and even more the innocence Of Kirby and destroys any reason to friend with Preacher. A book written for the lust of money and nothing else.

Sharon Oliver says

I am in love

I unhooked on the Jensen family. Will be looking up the other books about them. I have known two men like Smoke and they are few and far between. The characters are so well formed and I will also be looking for books about Preacher. Thanks Mr. Johnstone for your skill in bringing these people to life. Keep up the good work.

Bryan Schmidt says

Excellent entry in the series marred only by Johnstone's usual top easy and quick ending/final confrontation. Great backstory on the Smoke Jensen clan.

Realtime says

Tied up some loose ends in the Smoke Jensen history. A good book.

Terry McMullen says

Enjoyed

Douglas Fugate says

After reading Luke Jensen, where Smoke was mentioned and then introduced at the end, wanted to see what

Johnstone had come up with regarding Smoke. I was not disappointed. Another winner by Johnstone.

Ray S says

This book just seems to flow along, providing just the restful but engrossing experience I want in recreational reading. It's the first Johnstone book I've read and I look forward to diving into the many books he's written.
