



**Three Years Among the Comanches: The
Narrative of Nelson Lee, the Texas Ranger;
Containing a Detailed Account of His Captivity
Among the Indians, His Singular Escape Through
the Instrumentality of His Watch, and Fully
Illustrating Indian Life as It is ...**

Nelson Lee

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This is a detailed account of Lee's captivity among the Comanches in the 1850s and his escape through the mountains back to white civilization.

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Author : Nelson Lee

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TERESA LAPP says

Fascinating true history.

First person account of a Texas Ranger and Pioneer captured by Comanches and his experience and escape. An intelligent and savvy history.

Thomas Glover says

Page turner

Couldn't put this down! Amazing. Truly eye opening story that provides a front row seat to the realities of this time period. Very well written. The author's descriptions take you to an incredible time and place in American history.

David says

A fast paced and interesting read. It would deserve 5 stars if there were not doubt about the veracity of this tale of being held captive by the Comanche.

Even if it is fictional or exaggerated, it is still worth reading.

Julie says

This is said to be a first-person narrative account of Texas Ranger Nelson Lee's capture and life with a band of the Comanche. Much of the details involved in the narrative is generally and even specifically accurate, according to early Texas history. However, it is possible that this is not a true historical account, and some scholars dispute its origins. I particularly question several of the practices related to torture-styles and lifestyle traits that are attributed to the Comanche. It is my view that some of these details were gleaned from the influence the writer (whomever he may really have been) may have had in connection with southern forest-region tribes, rather than plains bands like the Comanche. Still, the account is quite intriguing, and enough of the historical context and specific details related to the plains Amerindians, the early settlers' interactions with the Comanche, and the activities of the early Texas Rangers are accurate as to make this a truly worthwhile read. Caveat: this book contains frightful details regarding deprivations and torture, so perhaps it's not for everyone.

Diana says

Why read western fiction when you can read the real thing? An autobiography by Nelson Lee a Texas Ranger who was captured by the Comanches and lived with them for three years. Published in 1859 we get a first-hand glimpse of the very wild west.

The Narrative Press, which describes itself as "First Person Accounts of Adventure & Exploration" has a long listing of first person accounts of exploits throughout the world. Many of these books, including the one mentioned here, can be purchased used from Amazon books.

A book like this might make a nice gift for a pre-teen or teenager and provide a painless way of introducing world history to the young reader.

JERALD J JOHNSON says

History

There is a lot of good history in this book, the cruelty of the Indians is unbelievable, I know we took this country away from them and I wonder what would have happened if we had not taken it? I read that this story was rewritten and I wish I could have read the original, I don't believe this man could have used such a high degree of language at his time in some places it became very confusing. All in all its a very interesting story.

Milady says

Disappointing. One of the books I've read at a slower pace... and I finished because I felt obligated lol. If I already started it, why not? The intro of his ranger life was too long in comparison to title's premises. One could think there would be interesting stories about his life among the Indians --asides pretty gals-- but there weren't. Bah!

Debbie "Buried in Her TBR Pile" says

Entertaining read - I read a note that many think the recounting is slightly exaggerated - I have to agree - but provides insight to the life and times of a Ranger who was captured by the Comanches and lived to tell about it. 3 stars.

Nancy says

Texas Rangers -Indian captive

A narrative detailing the exploits of the Texas Rangers throughout the West when Indians and white settlers engaged in battles for the land. Captured by Comanches, Nelson Lee recounts the suffering of the other captives and his own. He managed to survive because he possessed a trinket that the Indians considered sacred. He saw the suffering of the white women captives, and on his eventual escape, he determined to make their rescue his life's work.

Sadie says

I found this story interesting because of the topic - but I don't personally think it is accurate and it feels like it was a story motivated by money. A lot of what Lee states does not match accounts by other authors. A very narrow perspective and crudely written - although probably very typical of the period it was written in.

Dave says

I found this book to be very interesting and well written. You get a clear picture of how it was during his life, what he faced, what all he went through, and without a lot of trivial verbiage. I highly recommend it.

Wayne White says

I give it four stars not as endorsement of its truthfulness, for it is almost entirely a work of fiction by a skilled con man. Rather, I give it four stars because it is an entertaining story, and Nelson Lee recounts an interesting fable. Read it as you would a Louis L'Amour novel, keeping in mind that it is a fanciful yarn.

Randy Daugherty says

The recounting of Nelson Lee of his three years of captivity among the Comanches. Lee was a cattle and horse trader and as often a Texas Ranger, fighting in the Mexican War as well as up and down the frontier. There is some question as to the true historical accuracy of the events but many who knew Lee and his character back his integrity anyways. He himself as such states that one of the reasons to publish the book as financial gain.

He recounts his capture and how a fancy pocket watch kept him alive. While captive he recounts having seen white women held and what they endured and vowed as to spend his life working towards their release. He tells of the horror encountered at the hands of his captors, yet little is given in detail of the whites treatment of them. SO all said it was still a good telling of early life in Texas and a life of a Ranger.

Anupam Bansoodeb says

"Three Years Among the Comanches" could have been nominated for a Pulitzer award for misnomers, if ever there was such a thing.

With his book title, Nelson Lee misleads the reader into believing that the latter is about to embark on a journey of discovery into the culture of the Comanches in the 1850s; only for the reader to find out that almost 67% of the book has nothing to do with the Native American tribe!

The build up to the Comanche encounter is buried 47% deep into the book and the last 20% of the pages detail Nelson's escape from his antagonists. It would appear that Nelson is far more interested in talking about himself! As for the Comanches, the reader is given a cicerone tour of the tribes without ever delving deeply into their wont. In Nelson's defense one could argue that his observations are that of a prejudiced captive rather than that of a keen anthropologist.

A sense of disappointment surreptitiously creeps upon the reader as he realises through the unfolding pages that his quest for knowledge of Comanche customs and traditions will not be slaked by this narrative, which never truly engages the imagination to enrapture the reader; Nelson Lee is no Edgar Rice Burroughs!

To make matters worse, it does not help the narrative when the introduction states that "...some historians have questioned the reliability of this book. Some writers have pointed out they have been unable to find evidence that Lee was a member of the Texas Rangers...some of Lee's descriptions of Comanche life appeared to contradict that of other evidence available."

The narrative would have managed expectations better had it been referred to as "Three Years in the Life of a Texas Ranger". Readers who would like to learn more about Native American culture should give a wide berth to this book and instead look up "Wooden Leg: A Warrior Who Fought Custer", in which an explicit account of the life of the Plains Indians, albeit Cheyenne and not Comanche, is given; and should serve as a paragon for Native American anthropological literature.

Emmett Tullia says

Fascinating story

Life in the early years in central Texas was tough. Getting captured by the Comanche even tougher. Incredible story of one man's life and survival during this turbulent time.
