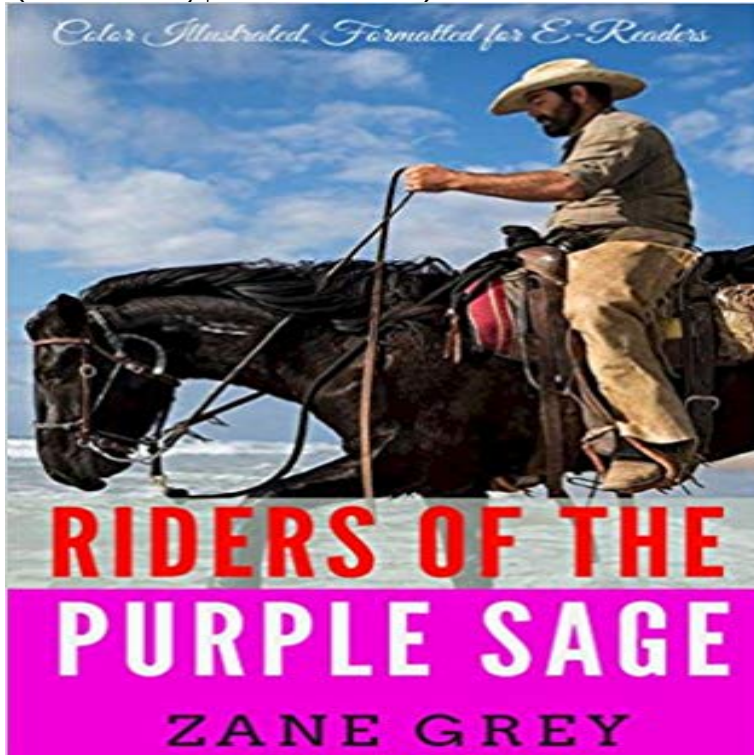


## Riders of the Purple Sage: Color Illustrated, Formatted for E-Readers (Unabridged Version)



How is this book unique? Formatted for E-Readers, Unabridged & Original version. You will find it much more comfortable to read on your device/app. Easy on your eyes. Includes: 15 Colored Illustrations and Biography Riders of the Purple Sage is a Western novel by Zane Grey, first published by Harper & Brothers in 1912. Considered by many critics[who?] to have played a significant role in shaping the formula of the popular Western genre, the novel has been called the most popular western novel of all time. Riders of the Purple Sage tells the story of Jane Withersteen and her battle to overcome persecution by members of her polygamous Mormon fundamentalist church. A leader of the church, Elder Tull, wants to marry her. Withersteen gets help from a number of friends, including Bern Venters and Lassiter, a famous gunman and killer of Mormons. Throughout most of the novel she struggles with her blindness to the evil nature of her church and its leaders, and tries to keep Venters and Lassiter from killing the adversaries who are slowly ruining her. When she adopts a child, Fay, she abandons her beliefs and discovers her true love. A second plot strand tells of Venters and his escape to the wilderness with a girl named Bess, the rustlers girl, whom he has accidentally shot. Venters falls in love with the girl while caring for her. Together they escape to the East, while Lassiter, Fay, and Jane, pursued by both Mormons and rustlers, escape into a paradise-like valley and topple a giant rock to forever close off the only way in or out. The events depicted in Riders of the Purple Sage occur in mid-spring and late summer 1871. Early in Riders of the Purple Sage, Jane Withersteens main conflict is her right to befriend a Gentile. (The word Gentile means non-Mormon and is used a lot in the book). Jane Withersteens father wished Jane to marry Elder Tull, but Jane refused

saying she did not love him, causing controversy and leading to persecution by the local Mormons. Janes friend, (cowboy) Bern Venters is arrested by Tull and his men, but is not clear under what authority. Jane defends Venters, declaring him her best rider. Her churchmen refuse to value the opinion of a woman: Tull lifted a shaking finger toward her. Thatll do from you. Understand, youll not be allowed to hold this boy [Venters] to a friendship thats offensive to your bishop. Jane Withersteen, your father left you wealth and power. It has turned your head. You havent yet come to see the place of Mormon women ... It is here we first hear of Lassiter. Ironically, at the moment when Venters mentions Lassiters name, the actual Lassiter is seen approaching in the distance by Tulls men. Upon his arrival, Lassiter expresses his trust in the word of women, at which Tull rebukes him, telling him not to meddle in Mormon affairs. Tulls men begin to take Venters away, and Venters realizes who he is and screams Lassiter! Tull understands that this is the infamous Lassiter and flees. Meanwhile, in Surprise Valley, Venters and Bess are preparing to leave as Jane and Lassiter departing, except on burros. Lassiter sets fire to Withersteen House and flees on horseback with Jane. They encounter Venters and Bess in travel. Before they part, Lassiter explains that Bess is not really Bess Oldring, but actually the lost daughter of Milly Erne and Elizabeth Erne. Jane gives Venters her horses, Venters and Bess gallop for Venters Illinois home, and Lassiter and Jane find refuge in Venters valley paradise. On the way, Lassiter rescues Fay, but they are pursued to Surprise Valley, causing Jane to shout to Lassiter Roll the Stone and create an avalanche, shutting the outlet to Deception Pass. (Grey uses the term forever, but this is obviously not correct. Grey describes the stone as chiseled by the ancient cliff-dwellers using stone tools.

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