

The Last Kind Words Saloon: A Novel

By Larry McMurtry

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New York Times Bestseller

The Last Kind Words Saloon marks the triumphant return of Larry McMurtry to the nineteenth-century West of his classic *Lonesome Dove*.

In this "comically subversive work of fiction" (Joyce Carol Oates, *New York Review of Books*), Larry McMurtry chronicles the closing of the American frontier through the travails of two of its most immortal figures, Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. Tracing their legendary friendship from the settlement of Long Grass, Texas, to Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Denver, and finally to Tombstone, Arizona, *The Last Kind Words Saloon* finds Wyatt and Doc living out the last days of a cowboy lifestyle that is already passing into history. In his stark and peerless prose McMurtry writes of the myths and men that live on even as the storied West that forged them disappears. Hailed by critics and embraced by readers, *The Last Kind Words Saloon* celebrates the genius of one of our most original American writers.

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
Many famous western characters make cameos in McMurtry's first novel in five years, which continues in the farcical vein of the Berrybender series. An English lord, accompanied by his beautiful mistress, teams up with Charles Goodnight to found a vast cattle ranch near Palo Duro Canyon, Texas—and fails. Observing Goodnight from the sidelines are two wisecracking ne'er-do-wells, Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, who, after a brief stint with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, drift down to Tombstone, where Wyatt's brothers, Virgil and Warren, have taken up the law and saloon-keeping, respectively. Other than Goodnight, Wyatt is the only developed character: he's a wife beater and alcoholic with a quick temper. He picks a fight with the Clantons, an ignorant but mostly harmless bunch, and kills them in a paragraph. The famous O.K. Corral fight is rendered as a heartless parody. Maybe McMurtry's version is truer than all the romanticized ones, but Gus McCrae from Lonesome Dove will roll in his grave. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: This might not be exactly what Lonesome Dove fans would like, but the first novel from McMurtry in five years will have his audience eager for anything. --John Mort

Review
Larry McMurtry possesses one of the most engaging, tempting-to-imitate voices in contemporary American fiction, a voice so smooth and mellow you can almost hear the ice clink against the glass as he talks. (Max Byrd - New York Times Book Review)

By turns droll, stark, wry, or raunchy, this peripatetic novel…will satisfy many readers who long for more from literary icon McMurtry. (Keddy Ann Outlaw - Library Journal)

[*The Last Kind Words Saloon*] is never dull, and it's also very funny. As always, McMurtry's characters are plain-spoken but subtle and full of dry humor… Moseying along with McMurtry is always worthwhile. (Adam Wong - Seattle Times)

The Last Kind Words Saloon is a beautiful, dreamy, deeply melancholy book, connecting legend and disparate threads of history in a seamless pastiche of tall tales drawn against the context of their real circumstances. (Nathan Pensky - The Onion)

In this 'ballad in prose,' as McMurtry describes his latest book, he paints the familiar historical characters in unfamiliar ways… lovely. (Richard Eisenberg - People)

A deftly narrated, often comically subversive work of fiction… If *Lonesome Dove* is a chronicle of the cattle-driving West that contains within its vast, broad ranges a small but heartrending intimate tragedy of paternal neglect, *The Last Kind Words Saloon* is a dark postmodernist modernist comedy. (Joyce Carol Oates - New York Review of Books)

Those who enjoy McMurtry's rueful humor and understated tone of elegiac melancholy will devour the book in one setting. (Michael Lindgren - Washington Post)

[A] wildly worthy addition to the best art books of 2014… *33 Artists in 3 Acts* is a superb read… (Maria Popova - Brain Pickings)

About the Author

Larry McMurtry is the author of twenty-nine novels, including the Pulitzer Prize winning "Lonesome Dove", three memoirs, two collections of essays, and more than thirty screenplays. He lives in Archer City, Texas.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christina Moss:

This The Last Kind Words Saloon: A Novel book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This specific The Last Kind Words Saloon: A Novel without we know teach the one who reading it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry The Last Kind Words Saloon: A Novel can bring once you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cellphone. This The Last Kind Words Saloon: A Novel having very good arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Fannie Wymer:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book could be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the guide untitled The Last Kind Words Saloon: A Novel can be great book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Christopher Hill:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled The Last Kind Words Saloon: A Novel your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one type conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get just before. The The Last Kind Words Saloon: A Novel giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful details for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Timothy Quintero:

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