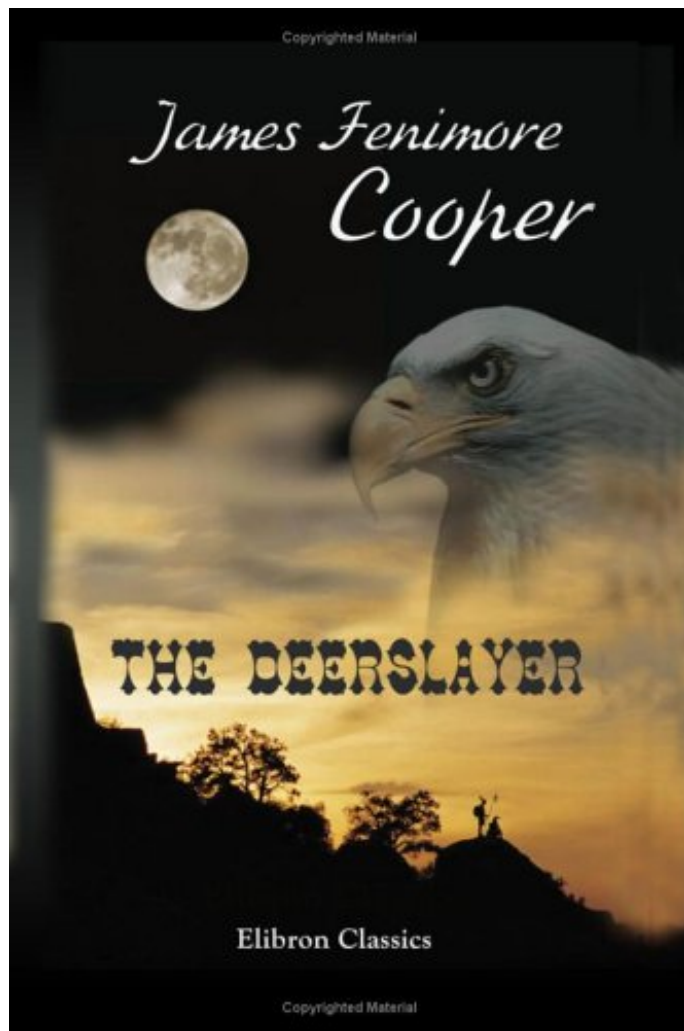

James Fenimore Cooper

The Deerslayer (The Leatherstocking Tales #1)



Title: The Deerslayer (The Leatherstocking Tales #1)

Author: James Fenimore Cooper

Format: Paperback

Language:

Pages: 527

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 1402198949

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 9.7 MB

Download: allowed

Description

The Deerslayer is the last-written of Cooper's Leatherstocking tales, but the first in the development of the hero, Natty Bumppo. Here Cooper returns Leatherstocking to his youth and to a pristine wilderness that D.H. Lawrence said was perhaps 'lovelier than any place created in language'.

Insightful reviews

stuart: Okay, in the end, I was glad I read it, but #\$\$%@! did his writing annoy me. JFC's a great story teller and the characters and lore of the leather-stocking tales keeps your interest, but it's about 700 pages longer than the story warrants, proof that there must not have been any quality editors on the frontier.

Aaron Cance: If one can read books promiscuously, as I was reassured in graduate school that one could, I read all five of the books in this series like a complete whore, giving myself entirely over to the story - loved all five. A word of caution, however: They were written in a different order than the chronology of the narrative. Imagine my disappointment at the Deerslayer's death at the end of the third book out of five.

The order that the author produced them:

The Pioneers
Last of the Mohicans
The Prairie
The Pathfinder
The Deerslayer

The order of the narrative (Thanks for the assist with this, Dave):

The Deerslayer
Last of the Mohicans
The Pathfinder
The Pioneers
The Prairie

Babs: This is the story of Deerslayer and his best buddy Chingachgook (which I still have not figured out how to say) as they go on their first "warpath" together. I looked for a movie version of this story after I finished it because I was interested to see how it would play out in modern times, but there is no movie made since 1920 (silent movie). I shouldn't be surprised. Let me say from the onset that I consider James Fenimore Cooper one of the finest writers I have read. That being said, the time and circumstances in which he lived seem to have made him a judgemental and unforgiving man. And from what I hear, in his time, he was considered to be a little bit "lax" in the accepted moral deportment of the day. WOW!

This story was very exciting and certainly held my interest even as I navigated the verbose style

of the 19th century writing. A bit wordy, why use 2 words when 20 will do. But the words he chose were of such beauty and description that it made it worthwhile - a feat not managed by all the authors of his time. I skipped over nothing. Also, each chapter began with a quote from some antiquated author that was lovely and foretold a bit of what was to come. I enjoyed this rather than finding it cumbersome as I sometimes do.

Never has there been a hero as virtuous as Deerslayer. In this day and age it is pure fantasy to imagine that he could exist. He is brave, honest, kind...but here we come to my problem....a little too judgemental for my taste.

The reason I could not give this wonderfully written and exciting story 5 stars is that I feel the author too harsh on his characters. I cannot believe that the world is so black and white. I cannot allow the author that - even taking into consideration the times in which he lived. And I could not embrace the bigotry expressed in the characters. This is why, I am sure, you cannot find a modern portrayal of this story. Taking out the bigotry would destroy the story. Ironically, the bigotry and judgementalism are what destroy an otherwise timeless tale.

I recommend reading this book simply for the wonderful descriptive prose and historical knowledge it possesses. Cooper WAS a genius of a writer. And for his time, he may even have had a more kind and open mind than I am giving him credit for. But don't expect to feel particularly good when you finish the book.

I will say that the closing lines of the book do attempt a bit of redemption of the prejudices within:

"We live in a world of transgressions and selfishness, and no pictures that represent us otherwise can be true; though happily for human nature, gleamings of that pure spirit in whose likeness man has been fashioned, are to be seen, relieving its deformities, and mitigating, if not excusing its crimes"

This is the closest Cooper gets to admitting that "All men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" and that we should "Judge not, lest we be judged".

Zachrobhan: I learn this whilst i used to be sixteen so i'd of forgotten how stable it used to be (I was once additionally a hormonal teenager) yet this e-book was once a truly enjoyable read. It was once quite the 1st novel that I ever acquired into. now not an incredible fan of the top though.....

dead letter office: Mark Twain: "Cooper's artwork has a few defects. in a single position in 'Deerslayer,' and within the constrained area of two-thirds of a page, Cooper has scored 114 offences opposed to literary artwork out of a potential 115. It breaks the record."I'll refer you to Mark Twain's essay "Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses":Now i think sure, deep down in my heart, that Cooper wrote in regards to the poorest English that exists in our language, and that the English of "Deerslayer" is the very worst that even Cooper ever wrote.I can be mistaken, however it does appear to me that "Deerslayer" isn't a piece of artwork in any sense; it does appear to me that it's destitute of each element that is going to the making of a piece of art; in truth, it kind of feels to me that "Deerslayer" is simply easily a literary delirium tremens.A paintings of art? It has no invention; it has no order, system, sequence, or result; it has no lifelikeness, no thrill, no stir, no seeming of reality; its characters are confusedly drawn, and via their acts and phrases they end up that they're now not this sort of humans the writer claims that

they are; its humor is pathetic; its pathos is funny; its conversations are -- oh! indescribable; its love-scenes odious; its English a criminal offense opposed to the language. Counting those out, what's left is Art. I feel we need to all admit that. I imagine that is a section harsh. yet this e-book was once lovely bad.

Brent Ranalli: I got here to *Deerslayer* without preconceived notions, simply realizing that years in the past I had loved final of the Mohicans. there have been a few early indicators (the weird and wonderful throttling within the first dialog of the book?), however it was once now not till I used to be midway via that I totally comprehended that even though it was once by way of a well-known writer this used to be actually a wretched, third-rate piece of fiction. Mark Twain, it seems, has already stated it best, so allow me quote Twain at the points that troubled me most. "The conversations within the Cooper books have a curious sound in our glossy ears. To think that such speak quite ever got here out of people's mouths will be to think that there has been a time while time used to be of no worth to an individual who inspiration he had whatever to say; while it used to be the customized to unfold a two-minute comment out to ten; while a man's mouth was once a rolling-mill, and busied itself all day lengthy in turning four-foot pigs of suggestion into thirty-foot bars of conversational railroad iron by way of attenuation." Honestly, what speechifying! even if the topic is a necessity for haste or silence, on it goes. Back to Twain: "Rules governing literary paintings within the area of romantic fiction . . . require . . . story shall accomplish whatever and arrive somewhere. however the *Deerslayer* story accomplishes not anything and arrives within the air." The principles additionally "require that the writer shall make the reader consider a deep curiosity within the personages of his story and of their fate; and that he shall make the reader love the great humans within the story and hate the undesirable ones. however the reader of the *Deerslayer* story dislikes the nice humans in it, is detached to the others, and needs they might all get drowned together." *Deerslayer* is neither solely admirable--Cooper within the narrator's voice makes that fairly clear--nor sympathetic. And he does not strengthen in any way. He simply is going on bloviating and being imperturbable. he's no diversified on the finish than he were on the beginning, other than a brand new Indian identify and a brand new gun. beautiful vulnerable tea for an "origins" prequel.

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