



The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford

By Ron Hansen

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The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford By Ron Hansen

Hansen re-creates the real West with his imaginative telling of the life of the most famous outlaw of them all, Jesse James, and of his death at the hands of the upstart Robert Ford. James, a charismatic, superstitious, and moody man, holds sway over a ragged gang who fear his temper and quick shooting. Robert Ford, a young gang member torn between worshipping Jesse and taking his place, guns him down in cold blood and lives out his days tormented by the killing.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Hansen has turned low history into high art. This is a terrific book." -- *Newsday*

"Here is THE James book . . . Put Hansen on your bedside table." -- *Richmond News-Leader*

"One of our finest stylists of American historical fiction." -- *Christian Science Monitor*

"This book is a wonderful achievement." -- *San Francisco Chronicle*

"Vivid and sustained." -- *New York Times Book Review*

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. . . vivid and sustained . . . -- *The New York Times Book Review, David Freeman*

About the Author

Ron Hansen is the bestselling author of the novel *Atticus* (a finalist for the National Book Award), *Hitler's Niece*, *Mariette in Ecstasy*, *Desperadoes*, and *Isn't It Romantic?*, as well as a collection of short stories, a collection of essays, and a book for children. *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. Ron Hansen lives in northern California, where he teaches at Santa Clara University.

From [AudioFile](#)

Ron Hansen's novel chronicles the lives and times of Jesse James and Robert Ford, the sycophantic young outlaw who eventually shot Jesse in the back. In Hansen's quest for period accuracy, the early chapters are slow going, but G. Valmont Thomas's narration is strong enough to overcome the heavy exposition. Thomas's shaded characterizations provide fascinating human insights into the legend of Jesse. The author reveals details of the gunslinger's personality--he used potions, and was superstitious and vain. Jesse's relationship with Zee is described as well--from courtship to marriage. Hansen's habit of "overbing" nouns gets annoying ("wristed with lace," "nailed across the road"), but Thomas's performance is so appealing--with his mellifluous tones; honest, uncluttered delivery; and perfect diction--that listeners won't mind. Thomas makes this an audiobook you won't want to miss. S.J.H. © AudioFile 2008, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

Users Review

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