



The Shootist

By Glendon Swarthout

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The Shootist is John Bernard Books, a gunfighter at the turn of the twentieth century who must confront the greatest Shootist of all: Death. Most men would end their days in bed or take their own lives, but a gunfighter has a third option, one that Books decides to exercise. He may choose his own executioner.

As word spreads that the famous assassin has incurable cancer, an assortment of human vultures gathers to feast on the corpse--among them a gambler, a rustler, a clergyman, an undertaker, an old love, a reporter, even an admiring teenager. What follows is the last courageous act in Books's own legend.

This classic, Spur Award-winning novel was chosen by the Western Writers of America as one of the best western novels ever written and was the inspiration for John Wayne's last great starring role in the acclaimed 1976 film adaptation. The Bison Books edition includes a new introduction by the author's son, Miles Swarthout, in which he discusses his father's work and the making of the legendary film.

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The Shootist By Glendon Swarthout Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #475874 in Books
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- Dimensions: 8.02" h x .60" w x 5.06" l, .56 pounds
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- 248 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"Such style...such a strong central idea...the showdown is an unremitting as the build-up."

Sunday Times of London

"This is an extremely well-written Western and gives the reader vivid insight into the workings of the mind of a wanderer and gunman." Baton Rouge, Louisiana Sunday Advocate

"The Shootist by Glendon Swarthout is the tale of the Old West's version of the modern 'hit man'. It is a splendid story, well-told and with a really satisfying ending."

Charleston, South Carolina Evening Post

"A treasured addition to my library."—Ronald Reagan

(*Ronald Reagan* 2011-03-02)

"A taut, leathery, masterful tale."—*Los Angeles Times*

(*Los Angeles Times* 2011-03-02)

"This is definitely more than a Western; the characterization is flawless, the plot absorbing and convincing."—*Library Journal*

(Barbara Branstad *Library Journal* 2011-03-02)

"A classic—an incredible tale about an incredible man by an incredible author. . . . It's a fascinating tale, and once started, is difficult to leave until the final sentence has been absorbed."—*Arizona Republic*

(Robert Shotwell *Arizona Republic* 2011-03-02)

"Chilling . . . grisly . . . extremely exciting to the very end."—*Times of London*

(*Times of London* 2011-03-02)

From the Inside Flap

The Shootist is John Bernard Books, a man of principle and the only surviving gunfighter in a vanishing American West. He rides into El Paso in the year 1901, on the day Queen Victoria died, there to be told by a doctor that he must soon confront the greatest shootist of all: Death. In such a showdown, against such an antagonist, he cannot win. Most men may end their days in bed or take their own lives, but a man-killer has a 3rd option, one which Books decides to exercise. He may choose his own executioner.

As word spreads that the famous assassin has reached the end of his rope, an assortment of vultures gathers to feast upon his corpse--among them a gambler, a rustler, an undertaker, an old love, a reporter, even a boy. Books outwits them, however, by selecting the where, when, who, and why of his death, and writing in fire from a pair of Remingtons the last courageous act of his own legend. The climatic gunfight itself is an incredible performance by an incredible man, and by his creator, Glendon Swarthout.

The Shootist will rank with such classics as *Shane* and *The Ox-Bow Incident*, but it is much more than a Western. When, in the final afternoon of his life, J. B. Books crosses a street and enters a saloon to make something of his death, we cross, we enter, with him. He is us.

From the Back Cover

"From a corner of the south window Gillom Rogers spied on the new lodger. The man unpacked his valise and put things in a drawer of the chiffonier, then hung his Price Albert coat in the closet. When he turned from the closet he was in shirt and vest. The boy's eyes rounded. Sewn to each side of the vest was a holster, reversed, and in each holster was a pistol, butt forward. As he watched, sucking in his breath, the man took the weapons out, revolved the cylinders, filled a chamber in one he had evidently fired, and replaced them before hanging the vest, too, in the closet. The pistols were a pair of nickel-plated, short-barreled, unsighted, single-action .44 Remingtons, obviously manufactured to order. The handle of one was black gutta-percha, the other pearl.

Gillom slipped away to take the horse to the livery, letting the breath of revelation out of his lungs. He was seventeen, and spent much of his time in saloons. He was not yet served, but he enjoyed himself and picked up a great deal of miscellaneous information, some of it true, some of it of doubtful authenticity. But the man in corner room was no stranger to him now. He had heard enough scalp-itch, blood-freeze tales to know that only one man carried a similar pair of guns in a similar manner..."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Candice Foushee:

What do you think of book? It is just for students since they're still students or the idea for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that concern above. Every person has various personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great as well as important the book The Shootist. All type of book could you see on many resources. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

Phyllis Force:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a publication your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading any book, we give you this particular The Shootist book as starter and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Karen Schanz:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or information even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is certainly always change and progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what type you should start with. This The Shootist is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Gordon Lipsky:

Is it anyone who having spare time then spend it whole day by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Shootist can be the answer, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this brand new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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