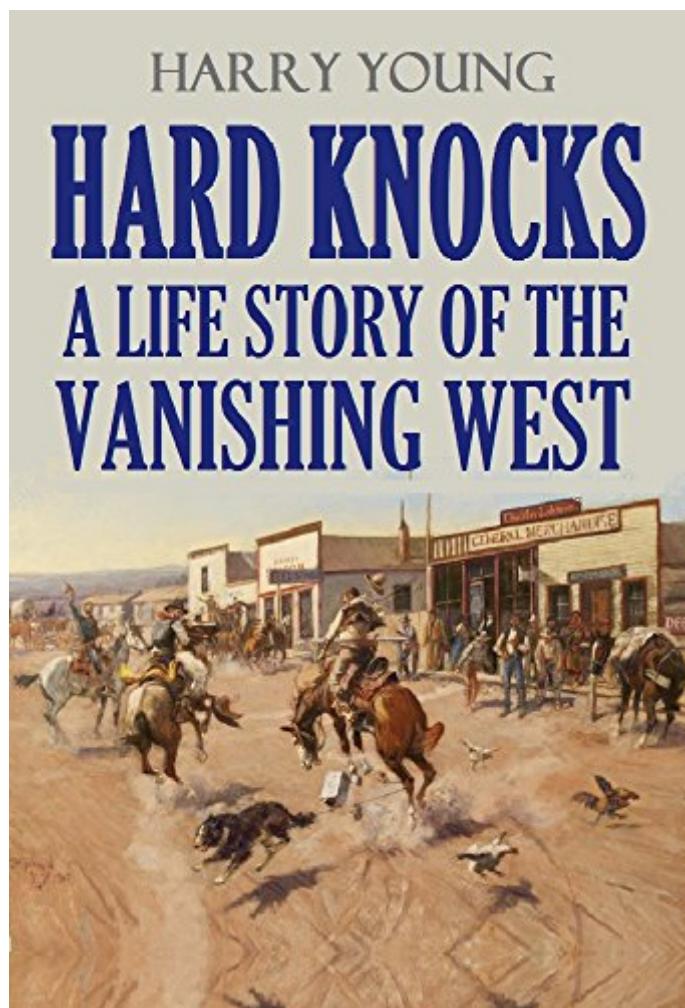


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Hard Knocks: A Life Story Of The Vanishing West (1915)



Synopsis

Harry à œSamâ • Young (1849-1925) moved west to the Plains of Kansas and the Dakotas from his native New York at age 14, in order to experience the Wild West adventure that he had read about in the dime novels popular during that era. He gained fame as being the last man to serve Wild Bill Hickok a drink. In 1915, Young wrote an authentic life story of his adventures titled à œHard knocks: a life story of the vanishing Westâ • covering Pioneer Life at Fort Dodge; Fort Laramie; Sioux Campaigning; Custer Massacre, and more. He was highly successful in his quest for western adventure, working in locations such as Dodge city and Deadwood as a bull whacker, teamster, bar-tender. He experienced all the adventure the west could offer, meeting heroes such as Calamity Jane, Wild Bill Hickok, Buffalo Bill and others. He was the bartender in the saloon where Wild Bill Hickok was shot---and testified in the murder trial. He had earlier arrived in the Black Hills with Calamity Jane in the Jenney Expedition. In his adventures Young journeyed through Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Wyoming, Dakota, Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon and Alaska. The life story here given belongs to a generation that has not only seen the world's greatest advancement, but has been a part of the greatest development of our own country. It has been a period rich in story, and the experiences here detailed run like a thread through the entire fabric. In the main, they deal not with the great heroes, the Carsons, the Custers and the Buffalo Bills, but with the great multitude of brave and adventurous spirits that have swept over the West in the past generation, and to whose undaunted courage and tireless energy our development is mainly due.

Contents:

- I. A Life in Summary, Effects of Dime Novel Literature, Etc.
- II. New Ideals, Hugh, the Kentuckian, Off for Fort Gibson.
- III. Our Well-Tagged Baggage, Deserted, "Tenderfoot," A Strange Offer of Marriage, Etc.
- IV. In the Creek Indian Country, The Seminoles, Lost on the Range.
- V. The Cherokee Strip, Ousted by Uncle Sam, Bank Robbers, Buckets of Real Snakes.
- VI. Santa Fe Extension West, "Wild Bill," Kansas Buffalo Exterminated in Two Years.
- VII. Pioneer Life at Fort Dodge, Unsung and Unhung Heroes, A Tribute to Dance Hall Girls.
- VIII. Murders for Money, Over the Union Pacific Railroad, Red Pat the Teamster.
- IX. On the Chugwater, Fort Laramie, My First Sioux, Red Cloud, Etc.
- X. Historic Happenings at and Around Fort Laramie, Customs and Habits of Army Officers, Reminiscences of Army Officers.
- XI. Great Powers Invested in Commanding Officers of Frontier Posts, A Nut for Scientists to Crack, An Amusing Incident.
- XII. The Sleep of the Just, In the Platte River, Light on Indian Policies, Some Famous Sioux Chiefs.
- XIII. "Sitting Bull," Indians as Beggars and Drinkers, A High-Grade Indian Funeral, "Red Cloud."
- XIV. More Bad Indians, Beef Cattle Issues, Indian Cowardice, Sioux Enumeration, The Puppy Dog Feast
- XV. The Sioux Language, Kise of Tobacco Habit, Indian Courtship and Marriage, Sioux Theory of the Origin of Indians.
- XVI. Sioux War Dance,

How Scalping is Done, Sun Worshippers, Counting Their Virgins, Horrible Tortures. XVII. How the Interior Department Lost Control of the Sioux, Unwritten History of the Custer Massacre. XVIII. A Tribute to Captain Burke. Calamity Jane. XIX. Jim Duncan, the Great Wagonmaster, Sioux Indians Attack and Kill My Partner, "Old Mack." XX. Establishing Custer City, the First Town in the Black Hills. XXI. Organizing the Custer City Scouts, Dying Confession from a Man Who Did Not Die. XXII. Indians Stealing Montana Herd, Scalping a Sioux. XXIII. First Sermon in Deadwood, Indian Head Celebration, Death of "Wild Bill." XXIV. A Ride with Dispatches, The Horse a Faithful Sentinel, Comic Happenings in Deadwood. XXV. My Buffalo Venture in Portland.

Book Information

File Size: 4236 KB

Print Length: 230 pages

Publication Date: January 2, 2017

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01MU6SOAU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #550,998 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #21 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Rodeos #46 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Rodeos #61 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > United States > Regions > Central

Customer Reviews

Harry Young's memoir is an evocative description of life at the sharp end of the early West. As a young man, Young left New York to see the wild west he had read about in dime novels as a child. His travels took him through infamous towns and brought him into contact with the famed and storied figures of Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok. Young's account of Hickok's death is by no means the only highlight in this true-to-life drama, but it certainly offers another perspective and is a true eye-witness version of the demise of one of the West's great characters. The book reads very

well and is an enjoyable romp through the life of Harry Young.

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