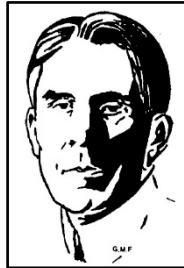


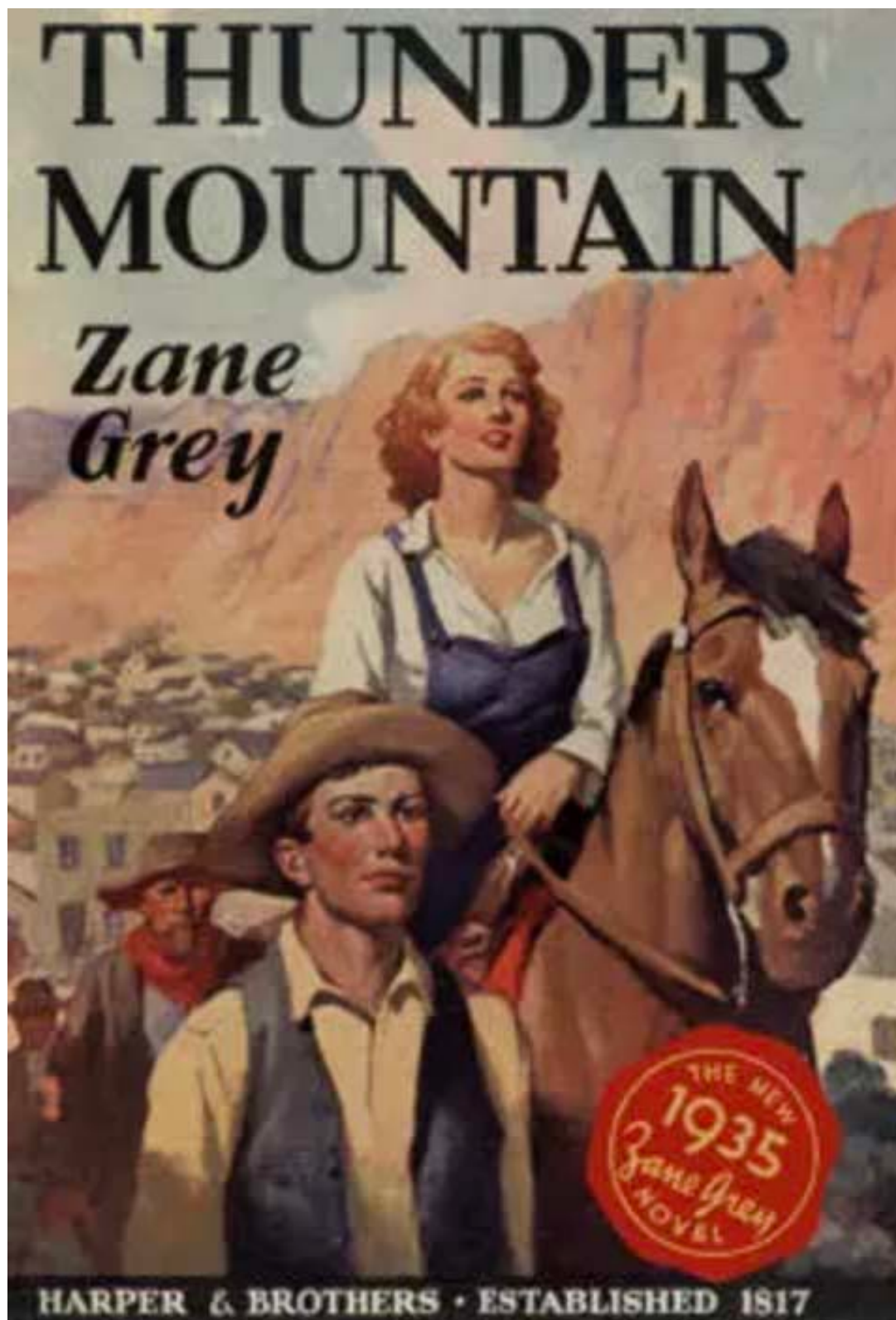
THUNDER MOUNTAIN

Synopsis and Research Summaries

Prepared by Elmer A. Guerri for his courses about Zane Grey's works
offered through the *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*,
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Zane Grey's West Society



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INTRODUCTION

In a story that illustrates Zane Grey's belief that man's greed for gold is evil and corrupting, three brothers following a report by a Sheepeater Indian find an Idaho Saw Tooth Mountain Range valley whose streams are abundant with gold, whose mountains are filled with gold-bearing quartz deposits. As the brothers seek to optimize the wealth from their find, the eldest brother is killed by a claim jumper, who along with his nefarious cabal partners battle off-and-on with the remaining two brothers over gold and women until greed and jealousy fracture the cabal. Eventually, unselfish love results in an unlikely redemption for the youngest brother and a dance-hall girl who epitomizes the contribution of women to taming the West.

LIST OF MAJOR CHARACTERS

(XX) Indicates the page where each character first appears in the Walter J. Black, Inc. edition of *THUNDER MOUNTAIN*.

- **Tomanmo (2)**...chief of Nez Perce' Indians living on the Saw Tooth Range of Idaho near the headwaters of the Salmon River.
- **Sam Emerson (5)**...eldest of the three Emerson brothers.
- **Jake Emerson (5)**...second of the three Emerson brothers.
- **Lee Emerson (aka Kal, Kalispel) (7)**...27-year old youngest of the Emerson brothers, a cowboy from Montana who had spent his youth in Missouri.
- **Olsen (26)**...a settler with a ranch Lee admires with whom Lee visits enroute to Salmon.
- **Mr. Blair (27)**...a businessman who decides to join Lee in his mining venture.
- **Sydney Blair (27)**...19-year old flippant, immature daughter of Mr. Blair.
- **Nugget (aka Ruth) (30)**...16-year old dance-hall girl originally from Wisconsin.
- **Cliff Borden (34)**...part owner of the Spread Eagle Saloon.
- **Pritchard (40)**...a shady gambler.
- **Hank Lowrie (46)**...a man who claims to be a sheriff who knows Kalispel from Montana.
- **Selby and Haskell (71)**...along with Pritchard, they become friends of Leavitt.
- **Selback (92)**...a man who accompanied Leavitt to take over Emerson's claim.
- **Rand Leavitt (94)**...a promoter who attempts to get Mr. Blair to invest in his company.
- **Jeffries (136)**...a miner who speaks out to thank Kalispel for exposing Pritchard as a cheat.
- **Dick Sloan (141)**...a miner who befriends Kalispel and Nugget.
- **Mac Macabe (191 232)**...one of Leavitt's men.

SYNOPSIS

Chapter 1. Three Emerson brothers (Sam, Jake, and Lee, aka Kalispel or Kal) ride into a magnificent valley in the Saw Tooth Range of Idaho at the headwaters of the Salmon River, having ridden there upon the advice of a Nez Perce' Indian who told Sam that the valley contained gold and auriferous quartz, the rock in whose cracks and fissures gold is found. Immediately upon sampling the gravel in the creek the brothers are amazed at the quantity of gold to be had. They discuss the importance of finding the lode of quartz from which major amounts of gold are obtained, far greater amounts than that found in particulate or nugget form in the creeks, the quartz deposits lending themselves to widespread hard rock mining which would produce enormous amounts of gold as compared to the placer-mining (mining by sifting or washing stream gravels). They envision selling rights to their claim to a mining company, thereby allowing each of them to realize their ambitions of buying ranches and settling down to raise horses and cattle in the beautiful Idaho range. Sam quickly finds a large, thick slab of quartz, part of the lode or source from which the particles and nuggets in the stream had eroded. As had the Indians and God's creatures before them for eons, the Emerson brothers hear the rumblings and thunder originating from the steep vertical faces of the mountain as they crash downward carrying with them the gold released from the quartz substrate.

Chapter 2. The brothers concoct a plan where the eldest brother, Sam, will stay at the camp to deter others from stealing their claim, and the other two brothers will leave; Lee to go to Salmon to obtain supplies needed, and Jake to go to Boise to try to find investors willing to put up one hundred thousand dollars to join their claim. Enroute to Salmon Lee visits with a settler named Olsen who promises to someday sell his ranch to Lee if Lee strikes it rich. In Salmon Lee meets Mr. Blair and his daughter Sydney. Lee tells them his other name is Kalispel. Lee also meets a 16-year old dance-hall girl named Nugget who works at the Spread Eagle Saloon. He overhears Sydney ordering a man named Borden from her room. He intervenes and knocks the man down, only to learn he is part owner of the Spread Eagle. He learns Mr. Blair is a gambler who loses heavily when he gets drunk, and that a gambler named Pritchard has won a lot of money from him. He learns Blair met Pritchard on the stage as Blair was coming west to meet a Mr. Leavitt, a promoter. Kalispel has lunch with Sydney and advises her to get hold of her father's money and hang on to it, and to let her father get to hard work on whatever his heart is set on. Kalispell observes Borden and a sheriff approaching, and he sends Blair and his daughter inside.

Chapter 3. The sheriff says he has been deputized by the citizens of Salmon, and he remembers Kalispel from Montana where he failed to arrest him for allegedly rustling cattle and for killing a man. He attempts to arrest Kalispel for assaulting Borden. Kalispel explains Borden had hounded Sydney and entered her room. The sheriff backs down, and Borden disappears. Sydney invites Kalispel to supper with her and her father. Kalispel invites Blair to join him in his mining claim. Blair agrees, and as they are riding away to return to the gold field, Kalispel discovers Pritchard and his partners are following them.

Chapter 4. Kalispel recognizes Pritchard from having gambled with him in Butte. He accuses him of being “slick with cards” and of following him, which Pritchard denies. Pritchard tells Blair he’ll regret passing up his deal for Kalispel’s deal. Sydney tells Kalispel she trusts him. Kalispel tells Sydney he’d like to keep her with him always. Each seems to be initially attracted to each other. She helps him make biscuits, during which he holds her hands. He tells her they will hear the mountain thunder when they reach his gold camp. Kalispel saves her from drowning as they cross a flooded river. Kalispel realizes that with Sydney, love and fortune and happiness are within his grasp. When they reach Sam’s valley, they see it is crowded with tents and people with blue smoke rising. The gold rush has begun.

Chapter 5. As they look at the populated gold town, the mountain growls ominously. Kalispel learns from a stranger that Rand Leavitt and Selback were the first persons to claim a stake there, and no one had heard of Sam Emerson. Kalispel calls on Selback. Selback’s guard raises his rifle, and Kalispel shoots and kills Selback. Leavitt appears, and Kalispel accuses him of killing his brother Sam. Leavitt denies it. Kalispel tells Leavitt he will prove Leavitt killed his brother. Kalispel later learns that the miners have made Leavitt judge of the camp. Blair tells him that Pritchard, Selby, and Haskell have ridden into town and have become friends with Leavitt. Blair states he believes the Emerson’s were robbed of their claim. Blair buys a gold claim from Leavitt. He tells Kalispel that he and his daughter had seen Kalispel lying drunk the day before, which disappointed his daughter. He also says his daughter thinks Leavitt is handsome, and that she had once cared for Kalispel, but that she no longer does. In his mind, Kalispel vows to kill Leavitt and get back Sam’s mine. He sets up his camp and soon begins to find gold of his own.

Chapter 6. Thunder City grows, and the mountain continues to roar like thunder. In less than six weeks Leavitt’s mine is in operation with a ten-ton stamp mill installed to process the quartz. Grey reveals his own views of conservation as he writes, “...the beauty perished in the stark, ghastly, hideous defacement of nature by white men.” With Leavitt as judge, Hank Lowrie becomes sheriff and Cliff Borden becomes the recorder of claims. Kalispel remains on the lookout awaiting the return of his brother Jake and overlooking the Blair cabin and gold claim, keeping an eye on Sydney. He continues to amass gold on his own, not losing it to gambling or drinking. Kalispel devises a plan to hunt game and sell it to miners who have a hard time finding affordable meat. His plan also allows him to befriend many miners, learning many things from them toward helping him verify his suspicion regarding his brother Sam. He learns that Leavitt, Borden, and Lowrie are playing a high-handed game taking advantage of the miners. Blair tells Kalispel that a miner named Dick Swan told him that Leavitt had seeded the ground he sold to Blair for his claim. He also tells Kalispel that Pritchard has nearly cleaned him out of all of his money by gambling. Kalispel meets Sheriff Lowrie in the street. He meets Nugget who has been brought to the town by Borden to work as a dance-hall girl in his saloon. Nugget and Kalispel agree to dance, and they agree to be friends, though she promises she may fall in love with him.

Chapter 7. Jake Emerson returns and files a lawsuit against Leavitt for claim to the mine. He tells the judge and the assembled miners that he was robbed of the quartz lode stone on his way to Boise, and that he believes the robbers then returned to stake their own claim on Sam's find. He describes the men who robbed him, and Kalispel states the man Selback, whom he had shot, resembles the description of one of the robbers. The hearing ends. The assembled miners must vote to determine the verdict. The count is 66 to 22 against Jake's case. Kalispel tells Leavitt the case will be closed only when Sam returns or until his body is found. Kalispel's opportunity to challenge the crooked gambler Pritchard comes when he finds Blair gambling with him, and he proves Pritchard is cheating. Pritchard's pal Selby draws on Kalispel, and Kalispel shoots him, wounding him. A miner named Jeffries speaks out to thank Kalispel for exposing Pritchard as a cheating gambler. When Kalispel escorts Blair home they find Leavitt with Sydney, who says she welcomed Leavitt's company. The next day Kalispel and Nugget, while walking down the street, happen upon Leavitt and Sydney. Nugget realizes Kalispel is in love with the girl, and Nugget promises to tell Sydney that Leavitt is a two-timer. Nugget asks Kalispel to tell Dick Sloan that she will meet him after dark at the bridge.

Chapter 8. Kalispel meets with Dick Sloan and learns that Nugget has asked Dick to refrain from coming to the dance-hall to see her as she believes her boss, Dick Borden, will try to harm him. She told Dick she may be in love with Borden in order to discourage him. Dick believes Nugget is as good as gold, and he asks Kalispel to encourage her to see him. Kalispel tells Sydney he is trying to help her father by discouraging his gambling and drinking. She tells him he is not her champion, that she scorns him. Kalispel goes to visit Nugget, and he brings Dick to visit her in her room. Nugget tells them her name is Ruth, not Nugget. She allows Dick to kiss her despite knowing Borden would be angry knowing the two of them were in love. Ruth says she will marry Dick. Kalispel interrupts Blair in a card game telling him to go home if he starts losing. Kalispel learns Sydney had followed him to Borden's dance hall, and she saw him going into Nugget's room and that she had lost faith in him. Sydney refuses to listen and to believe Kalispel's reason for going to see Nugget. Kalispel tells Sydney what he had felt for Sydney is as dead as what Sydney may have had for him. When Blair returns home drunk, Kalispel learns he has been robbed after winning big at gambling. Kalispel leaves threatening he would have to become involved in some gunplay, which Sydney tries to prevent him from doing.

Chapter 9. Masters, the new sheriff, requests a meeting with Kalispel. Kalispel explains the matter of Sloan meaning to marry Nugget. Masters tells Kalispel there is a rumor spreading that he, Kalispel, was the bandit robbing miners. Kalispel tells Masters that Leavitt had jumped his brother's claim. Masters proposes a plan where the two of them act as enemies in order to try to trap the bandits. Nugget tells Kalispel that Borden has called on her when Dick was away, and that he threatened her if she didn't return to his dance-hall. Kalispel tells Dick about the plan involving him and Masters where he would act drunk to set up the bandits to rob him. Dick tells Kalispel that Ruth, aka Nugget, knows that Leavitt had killed Sam, but that she couldn't prove it. Kalispel goes on a pretended drunken spree, including shooting up Borden's dance-hall in an attempt to provoke the bandits into robbing him, but nothing happens.

Chapter 10. Blair approaches Kalispel telling him that Sydney and Leavitt are driving him crazy, and that he had lost all of his money, and the rest of it had been stolen out of his cabin. Blair believes Leavitt was involved in the stealing of his wallet containing his money. He is concerned that Leavitt has told Sydney he will soon be leaving Thunder City, and he asked her to marry him and go with him. Kalispel visits Blair and Sydney pretending to be drunk. He asks her to take him back, which she refuses. She admits allowing Leavitt to make up to her. Kalispel tells her he will kill Leavitt. He slaps her in the face. She tells her father she knows he wasn't drunk when he slapped her, and she believes he will kill Rand Leavitt. Kalispel hears the mountain thunder, and he fears Thunder City will someday be destroyed and would become an inland lake. He sneaks up on Leavitt's cabin and overhears Leavitt and Borden arguing about Nugget. Leavitt fears Borden will try to kill Sloan thereby angering the miners who like him. He overhears Leavitt encouraging Borden to do away with him before he kills Borden. He also hears Borden warning Leavitt that Leavitt's man Charlie March had let it out that they were all part of the hold-up gang, and that the mine will soon be played out and that Leavitt is planning to clear out. After Borden leaves, Kalispel hears Leavitt telling his man Mac to take other bandits and rob Charlie March. Later Kalispel learns March has been robbed and killed.

Chapter 11. As the gold is thinning out Kalispel realizes the next phase will be the activity of those who prey upon the miners. In order to get revenge upon Kalispel, Sydney makes sure he sees Leavitt kissing her. In the process she gets Leavitt to tell her where he has hidden his gold, which Kalispel overhears. Kalispel realizes it is completely over for him with Sydney. He sneaks off to Leavitt's cabin and steals his gold as well as recovers Sydney's father's wallet containing his money. He believes at least he has finally retrieved the gold that was rightfully his brother Sam's. Nugget visits Sydney and tells her the complete truth about how Kalispel helped save her romance with Sloan, and that Kalispel was innocent and honest. After Nugget's talk with Sydney, Sydney tells Kalispel what Nugget had done. He says it's all over between him and Sydney because she had given Leavitt kisses, something he had so wanted himself. Kalispel tells her that he intends on killing Leavitt and Borden before he leaves Thunder City.

Chapter 12. Masters and Leavitt argue about who has the authority to form a vigilante committee to deal with the bandits. Kalispel tells Masters that Leavitt is the boss of the bandits. Kalispel returns Blair's wallet. He encourages him and Sydney to leave as soon as possible. Masters realizes their plan to catch the bandits had not worked. Borden and Leavitt part company. Dick Sloan is killed and robbed, but before he dies he gives Ruth, the description of his assailants. Kalispel tells Dick he will take care of Ruth. Kalispel learns the names of the men from Ruth, one of them Mac Macabe, whom Kalispel finds in the Dead Eye Saloon. After wounding Mac, Kalispel gets him to confess that Borden was behind the killing of Sloan.

Chapter 13. Kalispel goes through the town looking for Borden. He finds him at his dance-hall. The crowd, sympathetic to Kalispel, cheers him on and chides Borden to come out. At one hundred feet from Kalispel, a much longer range than is customary for gun-drawing and street fighting, Borden appears at the door of his dance-hall. He throws down the rifle he is carrying, and he draws two guns from his holsters and proceeds to fire randomly toward Kalispel. Kalispel carefully shoots and hits Borden. Lying on the ground, as he dies, Borden calls out

Nugget's name. Kalispel tells him he will look after Nugget. Kalispel takes her to his cabin. He asks Ruth to marry him as he wanted a real home, a wife to keep him straight, and kids. She says she does love him but can't be his wife. He says she can live with him without being his real wife, to which she does not object. He vows he still wants to kill Leavitt.

Chapter 14. That evening a storm breaks out with thunder along with rain falling in torrents. Many miners begin leaving the town. Kalispel and Masters walk through the town together, and they are met across from Borden's dance-hall by five masked men with rifles. One of the men tells Kalispel to raise his hands. The men escort him to Leavitt's cabin. Leavitt announces there will be a trial charging Kalispel with being a bandit. Masters steps forward stating he will speak in defense of Kalispel. Leavitt brings forth two men who testify that Kalispel robbed them. Sydney Blair, who has been watching, speaks up and says on the night one of the men claimed he had been robbed Kalispel had been alone with her in his cabin. She says she had gone to tell him that Leavitt was a villain and to ask him to take her back. Leavitt orders his men to grab Kalispel and to hang him. At that moment the mountain roars a mighty thunder, and all present run for their lives.

Chapter 15. A terrible avalanche ensues, earth sliding downward to wreck Leavitt's mill and cabin. Leavitt appears at the door of his crumbling cabin announcing his gold had been taken. He is felled by a falling rafter and killed. Borden's dance-hall is crushed in the avalanche. The Blair's and other miners escape from the town. Kalispel and his brother Jake and Ruth also escape. Ruth never looking back, leaving her past behind.

Chapter 16. Kalispel sends his brother to fetch a parson to marry him and Ruth. Ruth agrees, but says she can never live down her life as a dance-hall girl, so she would be a wife in name only. The parson in marrying them speaks accolades about the role of women in taming the West and that no one could bring calumny against the strong-willed mothers of the West. (The parson's words on pages 298 and 299 are reflective of Grey's feelings toward the role of women in developing the West.) Kalispel presents Ruth with the finest and prettiest saddle-horse in the valley. Much later in the winter Kalispel learns that Masters had lingered at Thunder City, clashing with and killing two men whom he learned had killed Sam at Leavitt's instigation. Kalispel never hears of the fate of the Blair's. Kalispel buys a ranch from a man named Olsen, and he and Ruth move in together. On a cold winter's night Kalispel, as a surprise to Ruth, suggests they should sleep in the same bed to keep from freezing. She agrees, and they both agree to never speak of their past love affairs.

HELPFUL RESEARCH AND STUDY SUMMARIES

Dr. Joseph L. Wheeler, *Zane Grey's Impact on American Life and Letters: A Study In the Popular Novel* (George Peabody College for Teachers [Vanderbilt] -1975)

References (57, 88, 96, 97, 214, 271, 292, 293)

(57) The virginal heroine stereotype does not mesh with the dance-hall heroine of ***Thunder Mountain***.

(88) Grey's relationships are usually lasting – but not always. What about ***Thunder Mountain*** where a change in heroine takes place at the end?

(96) In ***Thunder Mountain*** Grey expresses his respect for pioneer women. "Women are scarce on the Frontier. A few pioneer women with their daughters and the rest a horde of Indian squaws, and adventuresses, prostitutes – and dance-hall girls. From these the Westerners must choose their wives. And they have done so for years, are doing it now, and will continue to do so. Man must have woman. It is a hard country, this glorious West of ours. It takes big women to stand it. And bad women, if there are any bad women, have turned out big and good. They are making the West."

(97) Grey's analysis states that there is a narrowness of the educational process in frontier America. L'Amour agrees that often marriage in the West was every bit as unromantic as the drab picture Grey paints and that the ***Thunder Mountain*** commentary on where the Westerners choose their wives is true.

(214) ***Thunder Mountain*** (written in the winter of 1931-32 and published in 1935) although not a great ZG book, is still unique for several reasons. For one thing, Grey changes heroines in midstream (actually while wading out the other side); even at the very end of the book when Sydney Blair speaks in Kalispel's defense at the gallows, he could have still turned to her and accepted her as his wife and few readers would have been too unhappy with the choice. But he chooses Ruth, the dance-hall girl, one of the few times a ZG major character marries a woman from a shady past. Yet the decision was a right one; Ruth will make him a frontier wife far and above what the wishy-washy Sydney would have.

(292-293) As often in Grey's novels, the need for money was the almost messianic message about the corrupting power of gold, as it was in ***Thunder Mountain***. Grey believed money was to be used, not stockpiled; to facilitate doing the things one has always desired to do, not to be used just to build up a high bank account ledger for one's heirs to quarrel over.

Charles G. Pfeiffer, Zane Grey, A Study in Values – Above and Beyond the West
(Zane Grey's West Society, 2005) (ISBN 0-9768720-0-5)

References (15, 158, 184, 465, 468, 473, 475, 524-525, 530-531, 540-541)

(15) The arrest of Grey as a youth when he visited a house of prostitution as a curiosity prank had a lasting effect on his writing. Prostitution, along with alcohol and gambling, constitute Grey's big three vices as represented by Nugget in *Thunder Mountain*.

(158) At the same time Grey condemns prostitution, as a firm believer in giving a sinner a second chance, a number of call girls achieve respectability and wifedom in his books. The heroine of *Thunder Mountain* was a former dance-hall girl who beats out the prim and beautiful Easterner for the hand of the hero. If one is tempted to fuss a little at Grey on this point, he should remember that Jesus said that harlots would enter the kingdom of God before some of the religious authorities of his day [Matthew 21:31].

(184) It is very evident that Grey wanted his heroines to be virgins, the sole exception appearing in *Thunder Mountain*. The importance of virginity is highlighted by the fact that in extreme cases a number of heroines are willing to barter their virginity for the life of the man they love. I think Grey believed that the chances for a successful marriage were increased by mutual virginity, although I do not remember that he said this in so many words.

In *Thunder Mountain* I think that Grey was saying that in cases of dance-hall girls...despite the past, there could be a great deal of happiness. He emphasizes this by putting the thoughts on the lips of a minister called in to perform the nuptials in *Thunder Mountain*: ...I am of the West, Ruth. And I know what the foundation has been. Women are scarce on the frontier. A few pioneer women with their daughters, and the rest a horde of Indian squaws, adventuresses, prostitutes – and dance-hall girls. From these Westerners must choose their wives. And they have done so for years, are doing it now, and will continue to do so. It takes big women to stand it. And bad women, if there are any bad women, have turned out big and good. They are making the West. Who shall remember in threescore years, when this broad land will be prosperous with cities and ranchers, that the grandmothers of that generation, ever were, let us say, dance-hall girls. And if it were remembered, who could bring calumny against the strong-soiled mothers of the West?

(465) Kalispel in *Thunder Mountain* is one of Grey's cowboy gunmen who are considered to be closer to being gunmen than cowboys.

(468) While others have thought of Kalispel as a gunman, he did not so regard himself: ...What Kalispel had longed for was a little ranch, with cattle and horses of his own, a wife to keep him straight, and a chance to realize the promise he knew he possessed. But he never could save a dollar; his several attempts to gather a herd of cattle had led to questions he could only answer with a gun...

He tells Sydney that he had run away from home when fourteen, joined a wagon train that he left at Laramie, Wyoming, when he got into a fight. He had been associated with horses all his life and quite naturally became a cowboy.

Nugget, too, considered Kal to be a cowboy. She tells Sydney: ...he was a wild cowboy, a bad hombre, as they say in the South. One way and another he has been driven to defend his name, his life, or someone who needed a friend, until he became notorious. He's what the West calls a gunman, a killer. But all the same he's a better, finer, truer man because of that. The West has to have such men...

(473) In Grey's novels there are only five instances of the hero meeting someone in a shootout on a street...In *Thunder Mountain*, Borden is faced by public pressure to meet Kalispel on the main street of Thunder City. Borden is a major rival, but he comes out of a saloon carrying a rifle, which he is shamed into discarding. He and Kalispel are about two hundred yards apart when they start walking towards each other, and both have drawn guns. Borden empties the gun in his left hand by the time they are within one hundred yards of each other. It is at that distance that Kalispel starts shooting. His three shots end the fight. The fight does take place in the street with a major rival; the opponents do walk towards each other; but their guns are not in their holsters, and there is not the even draw.

(523-525) Not all of Grey's men are invariably noble and the women genteel, innocent, and helpless, such as occurs in *Thunder Mountain* when Kalispel slaps Sydney's face...Nugget's movement from Borden's dance-hall to Kalispel's ranch home on the Salmon River does not fit the genteel stereotype...

(530-531) Not all of the heroes and heroines in Grey's novels have a great deal in common, such as in *Thunder Mountain* where the hero bypasses the beautiful nice girl, who is the leading candidate for matrimony throughout most of the book, in order to marry an orphaned dance-hall girl. An early experience of Grey in his hometown of Zanesville, Ohio had irrevocably taught him that "good" girls are not necessarily good and "bad" girls are not always bad.

(540-541) It is in the area of the woman's role in settling the West that Grey makes one of his most important contributions to the Western. The difficult and important part that women played in the development of the West is spelled out poignantly in *Thunder Mountain* when the hero and the lovely violet-eyed near-heroine both understand that she could not live happily with the necessary sacrifices. Despite their mutual affection they reluctantly agree to go their separate ways.

I think that it is symbolic of Grey's understanding of womanhood in general, and the frontier wife in particular, that when Kalispel turns from the violet-eyed tenderfoot and decides to marry the dance-hall Westerner, who refuses him because of her past, that it is a Protestant minister who overcomes her objections, in a passage (184 above) that is all the more memorable for its positive portrayal of a minister, for the Protestant minister is one of the few persons who rates below women in the Western.

Dr. Carlton Jackson, *ZANE GREY: Revised Edition*, published by Twayne's United States Authors Series Edited by Kenneth Eble, University of Omaha, 1989 (ISBN 0-8057-7543-9)

References (46-48)

Readers of ***THUNDER MOUNTAIN*** are advised to read the excellent commentary and synopsis by Dr. Carlton Jackson as it relates to the theme of what lust for gold does to men, as well as to his comments summarizing Grey's beliefs regarding the important role played by women in the taming of the West.

Victor Carl Friesen, *ZANE GREY'S WILD WEST A Study of 31 Novels*, (McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2014) (ISBN 978-0-7864-7779-1)

References (188-193)

Readers of ***THUNDER MOUNTAIN*** are advised to read the somewhat expanded synopsis by Victor Carl Friesen as it not only contains concise descriptive summaries of major sections of the book, but it also contains many of Friesen's interpretations of symbolism contained in the book.