

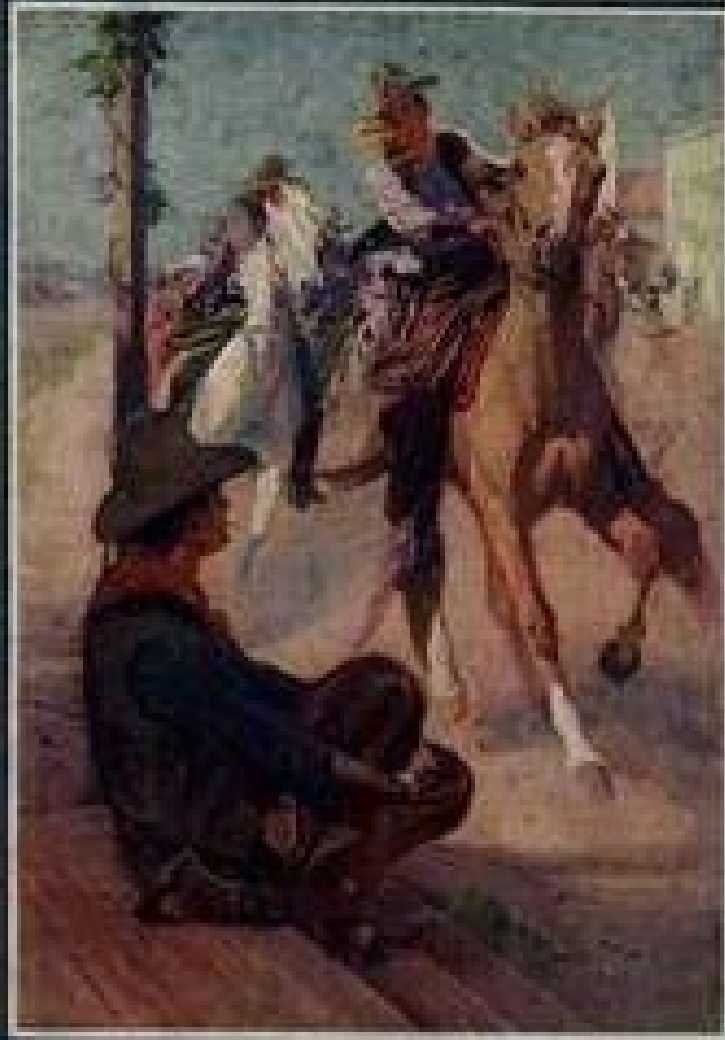
THE LIGHT OF WESTERN STARS

Synopsis and Research Summaries

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Zane Grey's West Society



The LIGHT of
WESTERN STARS
ZANE GREY

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INTRODUCTION

The Light of Western Stars (TLOWS) published in 1914 was the first book in a sequel, which was followed by *Majesty's Rancho*, which was published posthumously in 1942. In *TLOWS* Madeline "Majesty" Hammond, a wealthy, well-educated, well-traveled young lady from New York travels to El Cajon, New Mexico, to visit her brother, Al Hammond. Her brother had left his mother and father and siblings to move west in order to seek his fortune in the cattle business. Madeline is quickly drawn into the turmoil and conflict surrounding her brother's life, and she invests a portion of her inherited wealth in attempts to pay off some of her brother's debt. She herself becomes involved in confrontations and life-changing events as she attempts to understand the differences between her Eastern life style and living in the West.

LIST OF MAJOR CHARACTERS

(XX) Denotes the pages where each character first appears, or where quoted text appears in the Black's Readers Service Company edition of *The Light of Western Stars*.

- **Madeline "Majesty" Hammond (1)**...a wealthy, well-educated, well-traveled young lady who has led an Eastern socialite lifestyle before going west to join a brother who many years earlier had left their family.
- **Gene Stewart (6)**...a cowboy with a drinking problem who appears initially as a "stranger", a friend of Al Hammond, who takes a protective, and later a romantic interest in Madeline.
- **Padre Marcos (8)**...a Catholic priest who is asked by Stewart to marry him and Madeline as part of a drunken escapade.
- **Bonita (13)**...Mexican girl who Stewart helps escape on horseback the night Madeline arrives.
- **Florence Kingsley (16)**...Lady friend of Al who takes care of Madeline when she first arrives in New Mexico. She later marries Alfred.
- **Alfred "Al" Hammond (25)**...brother of Madeline who finds himself in financial and social straights as he attempts to raise enough money to establish himself in the cattle business. He acts as foreman of Stillwell's cowboys.
- **Jack (25)**...Flo's brother-in-law.
- **Bill Stillwell (37)**...a rancher who Al works for and calls himself "the last of the cattlemen".
- **Booly, Ned, Nels, Ambrose, Monty Price, Jim Bell, Link Stevens (49)**...Stillwell's cowboys.
- **Pat Hawe (128)**...the local sheriff who was partly responsible for hurting Al's business. Hawe hates Gene, and Al spoiled a plot of Hawe's against Gene, so Hawe hated Al. Also, Hawe hated Al because Hawe loves Florence and Florence was going to marry Al.
- **Don Carlos (129)**...A wealthy rancher who despises Alfred. He leads a band of *vaqueros* who are bandits and troublemakers.
- **Helen (173)**...sister of Madeline and Al. She is three years younger than Madeline.
- **Danny Mains** – one of Stillwell's cowboys whom he trusts with money. Danny disappears early in the novel. Many believe he had fallen victim to ill play from Don Carlos.

SYNOPSIS

Chapter 1. Madeline arrives in El Cajon, New Mexico, on a late arriving train, and she learns that her brother Alfred has failed to meet her at the station. Madeline has led an Eastern society lifestyle. She has journeyed to New Mexico to meet her brother who had years earlier disgraced the family by choosing to go west to start a new life. A drunken cowboy identified initially only as a “stranger” happens upon Madeline, and he attempts to have a Catholic priest, Padre Marcos, marry him and Madeline; part of a drunken pledge he made to friends in a nearby bar that he would marry the first girl to come into town. After threatening the priest with gunfire, the stranger gets Madeline to respond by saying, “Si”, following a number of words recited by the priest, in effect entering into a marriage arrangement, which Madeline did not understand. Following an altercation outside the station where a man is killed and a Mexican girl rides off on the stranger’s horse; the stranger leaves to take Madeline to meet Florence Kingsley, who the stranger introduces as the “best friend” of her brother. Although initially offended by the stranger’s behavior, there is something in his appearance and demeanor that is attractive to Madeline.

Chapter 2. Florence greets Madeline calling her “Majesty” (Alfred’s name for her), and gives her a room. Florence admonishes Gene for his drinking and for whatever he did to mistreat Madeline. The next day Gene returns to accept his punishment for drinking, and Florence tells him her brother-in-law Jack dislikes him and will likely tell Al about his being drunk and how he mistreated Al’s sister. Madeline asks Florence to allow Gene to enter her home, and she tells Gene she won’t tell Al about Gene’s rudeness. She asks Gene about the man who had been killed or injured the night before and about the Mexican girl. She learns the Mexican didn’t die and that Gene helped the girl escape. Florence tells Madeline that when Al arrives they will be going to Bill Stillwell’s ranch. Madeline tells Al that Gene did not do anything dishonorable the night before and that he did take her to Florence’s home.

Chapter 3. Madeline and Al visit, and she tells him about their sister Helen, their mother, and their Aunt Grace, but not anything about his father, because Al did not ask about him. Al tells her the Sheriff Pat Hawe helped ruin Al’s business, he hated Gene, and he hated Al because Al spoiled Hawe’s plot against Gene. Besides, and perhaps most importantly, Hawe hates Al because Hawe loves Florence and Al was going to marry Florence. Madeline asks Al if Florence is well connected if he is going to marry her. Al tells Madeline Florence’s family is from Kentucky, brought up in Texas, just an ordinary girl. Al tells Madeline that Don Carlos, a wealthy rancher, is his worst enemy as well as Bill Stillwell’s worst enemy. He calls Don Carlos a dishonest Greaser. Don Carlos has filed lawsuits against Al in Santa Fe.

Al tells Madeline he is foreman of Stillwell’s cowboys, and that he likes his job. Madeline offers to use part of her inheritance from her Aunt Grace to pay off some of Al’s debts. He agrees. Al says he and others have followed Madeline’s social life through New York newspapers, and he cautions her against marrying any of her socialite European suitors, telling her to never marry except for love. Madeline tells Al their sister Helen has been courted by a man named

Anglesbury who wants to marry her for her money, but that is her business. Madeline learns that Gene has cut out a photo of her from the newspaper, and he kept it hanging in his room as a reminder to stop his drinking, which he did for a month. However, when he did drink again, he took her photo down and has never hung it back up.

Al introduces Madeline to Bill Stillwell, who calls himself the last of the cowboys. Stillwell sticks up for Gene, and Madeline admires his support for a fellow cowboy. Stillwell tells Madeline about the Mexican war across the border. Stillwell tells Madeline about a cowboy named Danny Mains who disappeared after carrying money from Stillwell to pay his cowboys. Sheriff Hawe threatens to arrest Mains, and he threatens to arrest Gene because he feels he was involved with the shooting and the girl escaping the night before. Gene tells Hawe he didn't do anything wrong. Hawe says he heard Gene, while drunk, mistreated Madeline, and he threatens to arrest Madeline if she doesn't tell him about Gene's mistreatment and about the shooting incident. Stewart sticks up for Madeline, then Gene takes Hawe's gun away from him.

Chapter 4. Florence takes Madeline on a wagon ride to observe a roundup and branding of cattle. Madeline is taken by the beauty of the landscape. She realizes henceforth there would be something new in her life which she had never felt before. Stillwell gives Madeline a brief history of the Indians and Spaniards in New Mexico. The stars call strangely to Madeline.

Chapter 5. Madeline is abhorred by the branding of the cattle and the manner in which calves are separated from their mothers. She asks Stillwell if there was a better way to identify cattle than by branding them. She learns her brother would have made a lot of money from cattle had it not been for crooked work by rival ranchers, especially the stealing of maverick cattle and calf thieves and changing brands on cattle. Madeline learns about the illicit practices of Don Carlos, such as chasing Al's cattle away from watering places. Madeline observed how the *vaqueros* treated their horses by overworking and abusing them, unlike Stillwell's cowboys.

Chapter 6. Al is concerned that Don Carlos shows a special interest in and followed Madeline, which Stillwell and Florence also recognized. Stillwell was afraid one of his cowboys might confront some of Don Carlos' *vaqueros*, or that they might throw a rope on Don Carlos and pull him off his horse. Madeline enjoys all she sees and believes she had missed out on something in her life prior to going west. She resolves to find out what it was she had missed. Madeline visits the squalor and poor conditions in the Mexican village and hates it.

Gene Stewart's riderless horse rides up to Stillwell's ranch. It appears Gene had finally left to join the war in Mexico. A note is found on the horse requesting Al to give Gene's horse to Madeline. She accepts it without changing its name, Majesty, the name given it by Gene in honor of Madeline. Madeline demonstrates her riding skills to Al and Florence as they ride to the mesa. Madeline proposes to Stillwell that she should buy the ranch from Don Carlos and turn it into a ranch like Stillwell had dreamed. She does so and also pledges to improve the plight of Mexicans in the village and the lives of Stillwell's cowboys. Madeline says she has found herself to be in her work, her happiness under the light of the western star. (Hence the novel's title.)

Chapter 7. In five months time Madeline achieves most of Stillwell's goals and makes many improvements, including hot and cold running water, acetylene lights, and new doors and windows. The cowboys named the ranch "*Her Majesty's Rancho*". Madeline invites her sister Helen and several friends from back East to visit her in the summer. Madeline changed the branding method to one that was more humane. On the farming section of her ranch she finds work for many of the Mexicans. Ambrose, a cowboy, and Christine, Madeline's maid, run off and marry. Madeline accepts the marriage and keeps both of them on her staff. Madeline teaches the cowboys to make bread using a new bread mixer, thereby improving their spirits.

Chapter 8. Stillwell follows the progress of the Mexican revolution, all the while hoping Gene Stewart would someday return to his crew. He learns that Gene's heroics have earned him the name "*El Capitan*" among the revolutionaries. Upon his return from Mexico Gene seeks out Sheriff Pat Hawe, who had accused Gene of killing the Mexican on the night of Madeline's arrival. Stillwell pledges to Al that he had turned Gene around once from his drinking, and that he plans to do it again. Don Carlos refuses to leave his ranch, as there wasn't a specified time for his leaving in the agreement he had made with Madeline. Stillwell hears Gene is in Chiricahua County, Arizona, and he goes to try to convince him to return to his crew. Gene refuses, and Stillwell returns alone. A letter from Gene's sister outlines the problems of his early life, and Madeline decides she will attempt to retrieve him. Link Stevens, one of Stillwell's cowboys, drives a car Madeline has obtained, and they drive to Chiricahua to talk with Gene. He reluctantly agrees to return.

Chapter 9. Gene finally arrives back at the ranch. Madeline has pity for Gene and makes him foreman. Gene goes back to Padres Marcos, possibly in response to religious fervor that changed his life or for some other unknown reason. Gene decides to go to the ranch to extricate Don Carlos and end the problems Madeline was having with him. Gene believes Don Carlos and his *vaqueros* are involved in illegal smuggling of arms to Mexico. Madeline agrees to allow Gene to go, but requests the job be done without bloodshed if possible, that his actions should be governed by reason, not passion. She asks him to become her kind of cowboy.

Chapter 10. Gene goes to the ranch where he finds Don Carlos and confronts him. In the presence of Sheriff Hawe, Gene opens crates revealing illegal arms and ammunition. He challenges Hawe to arrest Don Carlos. Hawe refuses. Don Carlos accuses Gene of killing his *vaquero* on the night Madeline had arrived in El Cajon, and he asks the sheriff to arrest Gene. Gene threatens to call in soldiers to deal with Don Carlos. Eventually Gene offers Don Carlos a generous number of cattle and an amount of equipment, and Don Carlos agrees to leave, but not before threatening Gene for the future. Don Carlos and his men leave, and Gene and his crew return to Al's ranch. Later in the evening they see a glow in the distance, and they realize Don Carlos and his men had burned the ranch, the barns, and the hay at the ranch they had abandoned earlier. Al and Stillwell leave Al's ranch to examine the scene of the fire. Madeline and Flo are left to ride back to Madeline's ranch. In the distance they see a group of *vaqueros* who seem to be waiting, perhaps in order to ambush Madeline and Flo. Madeline is warned by Florence that she believes Don Carlos is after Madeline. They change horses and clothing and split up in attempt to lure the *vaqueros* into chasing Flo. Madeline escapes to her ranch.

Chapter 11. A band of guerrillas, not all Mexicans, chase Madeline to her ranch and attempt to enter her house and capture her. She attempts to hide then run, and she is captured by a man on a horse and taken to a camp. Gene Stewart rides into the camp and obtains her release by offering to pay a ransom of two thousand dollars. He is able to do that because he had saved the guerrilla band leader during the Mexican revolution. Gene suspects the guerrillas captured Madeline with the hopes of giving her to Don Carlos in exchange for money. Weak from the trauma and bleeding from a scratch in her arm, Madeline sits on a horse facing Gene, and he carries her to her ranch.

Chapter 12. Gene disappears back into the mountains. Madeline's sister Helen and a group of six other people from back East arrive at El Cajon for a visit to Madeline's ranch. Link Stevens picks up the group and gives them a very fast ride to the ranch in an auto. Gene returns bringing Madeline some written reports. When Helen arrives at the ranch she is surprised at the change she sees in Madeline. She is especially pleased to see Madeline being happy, which she never was at home. Helen says the group most of all wants to see something happen during their visit. Alfred is away driving cattle to California when the group arrives.

Chapter 13. Madeline's cowboys go crazy over the game of golf, and Monty Price is put in charge of the golf course. A tournament is organized, as the cowboys are very competitive.

Chapter 14. Gene Stewart is concerned for the safety of Madeline and her guests as they watch the golf tournament, as he believes bandits are hiding in an abandoned hut at Madeline's ranch. He tells Madeline that she and her party should hide out up in the mountains in a secluded spot. He gives orders to his men that they are to remain by Madeline's side at all times. Stillwell informs Madeline that the bandits are hiding in her house, and that Sheriff Pat Hawe is with them and searching the areas where Madeline has stored provisions, guns, and ammunition. Hawe again accuses Gene of killing a Mexican man on the night Madeline arrived in El Cajon. Gene sets out to throw Hawe and his crew off of Madeline's ranch and a fight erupts as a deputy goes for his gun, and Nels, one of Madeline's cowboys, shoots the man in his arm. Some of the deputies run off. Gene arranges for Madeline and her guests to go to the kitchen, as he believes there are still some bandits hiding in the house. Later that night Madeline sees Don Carlos hiding in the house, and she tells Gene. Gene tells Madeline they must stop Don Carlos, but she forbids him to engage in any fighting that produces bloodshed. She says the main reason for her hesitancy is that she is afraid Gene might be hurt. Gene tells her he is driving Don Carlos out, if possible without a gunfight, but with a gunfight if necessary.

Chapter 15. Gene and the other cowboys lead Madeline and her party of friends from back East to a mountain hideaway. When they arrive at the mountain hideaway Gene informs Madeline that Don Carlos and his bandits have left her house.

Chapter 16. Madeline becomes jealous as she sees her sister and Dorothy, one of her guests, showing particular attention to Gene. Madeline realizes she has come to love the physical things and the beauty and mystery of the West, but most of all she realizes she loved *“these*

Western stars, for they were to have something to do with her life..." and that they *"...were somehow to influence her destiny."* (Note: A source of reference for the book's title.) When Madeline sees Gene rebuff the attentions of Helen and Dorothy, she finally realizes Gene Stewart occupied a place in her heart occupied by no other man. She still wonders, however, if Gene's occasional absence was due to him possibly going to the mountains to meet the Mexican girl he helped to escape the night Madeline arrived in El Cajon.

Edith, one of Madeline's guests, tells Madeline that the time had come for her to return back East. She tries to encourage Madeline to do the same. Madeline says she understands that Edith needs to have work in her life for her life to have meaning. *"No one can be happy who has no work."* (Note: This is a major theme in the novel, one of Grey's primary beliefs.) Edith says she could never live in the West. Madeline tells Edith she will live there the rest of her life. Madeline asks her old boyfriend Boyd if he would move west if they married. He says, "No!" Madeline returns to camp and sees Gene, and she compares the contrast between the two men. That comparison is the last parting regret for her old standards.

Chapter 17. The camping party sits around the campfire telling stories. Florence tells a story about a lost mine of the Padres.

Chapter 18. While walking alone, Madeline sees Gene meeting a Mexican girl, giving her a package. She realizes it must be the Mexican girl whom he had helped escape on the night of her arrival in El Cajon. Madeline tries to keep Gene from knowing she saw him and the girl, but Gene sees Madeline's tracks and knows she had seen them. He tries to talk to Madeline, but she refuses to listen. In frustration, Gene decides to go against Madeline's wishes, and he says he is going to go find Don Carlos and end his violence once and for all. Nels resigns his job with Madeline to join Gene, saying he would not go against Madeline's orders while working for her. Other cowboys join them as they go in search of Don Carlos who is believed to be hiding out in the hills and on trails nearby. Gene believes Don Carlos is trying to do mischief that would bring the U.S. into the war in Mexico only ten miles away across the border.

Chapter 19. Gene arranges for Madeline and her guests and all of their baggage to be taken to a hiding place on top of a cliff where they could hide in caves, in the event the guerrillas defeat Gene's men and come to look for Madeline and her party. Monty resigns his job in order to join Gene against Don Carlos. While remaining hidden, Madeline observes a group of guerrillas, including Don Carlos, as they confront Gene and his cowboys. Gene attempts to avoid conflict, even offering the guerrillas food around his campfire. After exchanging unfriendly words, Don Carlos tells Gene that he and his guerrillas will leave, pointing the way they will go. Gene tells them to not go that way for fear he'll see the horses of Madeline's group. Don Carlos refuses, and Gene knocks him to the ground. When the guerrillas see Gene's men standing beside him with their hands ready to draw their guns, they speed off on their horses. Don Carlos remounts and follows them. Ambrose leads the bulk of Madeline's party back to her ranch, while Gene, Madeline, Nels and Monty follow a back trail in an effort to distract the guerrillas and to prevent them from noticing the others who were leaving. They reach the ranch the next day.

Chapter 20. When Madeline's guests get back to Madeline's ranch they think the entire adventure was a put-up masterpiece of a trick. Madeline promises her friends she will likely return back East, at the latest by Thanksgiving. Madeline receives a letter from Alfred from California telling her his trip had been a success, and that he is bringing a minister with him to marry him and Florence. Madeline believes Gene is losing his grip on himself, and she no longer wants him on her ranch. Florence and Alfred are married. Sheriff Hawe and deputies arrive at the wedding to arrest Gene for killing a Mexican in El Cajon the night when Madeline arrived. The sheriff has Bonita tied up on a horse. Gene agrees to submit to arrest if the sheriff will let Bonita go. The sheriff says he will not do so, and he orders his deputy to put Gene in irons. Madeline intervenes and tells the Sheriff what happened when she arrived and that Gene did not kill anyone. The sheriff says he believes Madeline was alone with the drunk Gene on her own accord, insinuating she was an immoral woman. Monty Price intervenes in defense of Madeline. A shoot out occurs and the sheriff, a deputy and Monty are killed.

Chapter 21. A few days later Madeline rides off to a lonely spot to be alone. Gene finds her and asks why she wouldn't listen to him when she saw him bring a package to Bonita. Madeline slaps Gene. He asks her again, and he says *"You don't know I love you, do you?"* He tells her he believes Madeline thinks he kept Bonita up in the mountains and secretly met with her. He gives Madeline his gun and asks her to shoot him. She refuses, and he rides off.

Chapter 22. Madeline promises herself again that she will leave the West. Madeline learns Danny Mains has returned to see Bonita. Danny tells Madeline Bonita is his wife, and that it was Gene that arranged for Danny and Bonita to marry. He says he has found the Lost Mine of the Padres, and that he is rich. He says Gene secretly brought supplies to them at the mine, and that Gene had brought Padre Marcos to marry them. He says he wants to see Gene and reward him for his help. Padre Marcos approaches Madeline and tells her that on the night of her arrival he had actually married her and Gene, that she was officially Gene's wife. He tells Madeline Gene has gone off to Mexico to fight, so he felt compelled to violate his oath of secrecy to Gene and finally tell her the truth. He warns her not to cast away Gene's love for her.

Chapter 23. Madeline realizes her error, and admits to herself that she loves Gene. One night she sees her stars and realizes the supreme duty of her life is to be true to Gene as his wife. The next day she learns from Stillwell that Gene, known as El Capitan, has been captured by rebel soldiers and sentenced to death.

Chapter 24.) Realizing she has only thirty-six hours to save Gene's life, Madeline sends telegrams to U.S. government officials attempting to get them to swap prisoners in order to save Gene. She has Link drive Stillwell to El Cajon so he can catch a train to El Paso carrying drafts of letters and ransom cash to buy Gene's relief from rebels. She receives a telegram from Stillwell that he has bought Gene's release and arranged for his transfer as a prisoner of war. She has Link drive her to Aqua Prieta. There they meet a soldier who tells them that rebels have intercepted the letters notifying the authorities that Gene had been spared from execution. Madeline learns Don Carlos was in charge of the rebels who intercepted the release

communications once again making it possible for Gene to be executed as Don Carlos had desired. Along with an officer, Link drives Madeline to where Gene is scheduled to be executed.

Chapter 25. When she arrives she learns that the officer in charge had finally received the release letter, but he had not communicated it to Gene, who was on what he thought was his last walk to the executioner. Madeline also learns that Don Carlos had been arrested, and that he was in chains awaiting trial. Madeline runs to Gene who in a trance asks, “*Who are you?*” Madeline replies, “*It is I. Majesty. Your wife!*” in what is one of the most unusual endings to a Zane Grey novel.

HELPFUL RESEARCH AND STUDY SUMMARIES

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 (73, 77, 79, 89-90, 103-104, 109, 148-149, 151, 172, 177, 231, 241, 253, 345, 394, 407, 414-415, 422, 431-432, 456, 458-459, 484-485, 488, 491, 521-522, 526, 528, 531, 543, 568)

(73, 77) There is something else that is overlooked in Grey, and that is the low percentage of minority villains. Don Carlos in ***THE LIGHT OF WESTERN STARS (TLOWS)*** is one of few Mexican blackguards in Grey’s novels – an aristocratic villain.

(79) The Mexican village below Majestic’s ranch is described as “*squalor, filth, vermin, no water, little evidence of labor, rampant disease, pervasive odor of liquor, people appearing stupid*”, in Grey’s opinion all of which are due to the poverty and hard conditions under which the people lived, not so much for Mexican character.

(88-90) Whether or not Grey fully accepted the prevalent idea of his day that it was manifest destiny of the Anglo-Saxon people to dominate the entire Western Hemisphere, or even Western America, “*...there is no doubt that he was prejudiced in favor of Anglo-Saxons...Stated simply, the problem with the English is that while Grey may have looked upon the Anglo-Saxon heritage as the best, he did have problems with them.*”

(103-104) Quoting Dr. Wheeler’s thesis (p. 304) “*Grey was not very sympathetic to the hordes of Anglo-Saxon immigrants which were flooding in during this period. He felt the country would only suffer as a result.*” Pfeiffer goes on to also cite the following from ***TLOWS*** where Alfred counsels his sister: “*Majesty, marry no man unless you love him, and love an American. Stay away from Europe long enough to know the men – the real men of your own country.*”

(148-149) Pfeiffer cites Grey's belief that *"work ministers to many diverse needs of mankind."* He cites Madeline Hammond's finding work to be a key to happiness in **TLOWS**. *"Work, of course, has much to do with any one's happiness...no one can be happy who has no work..."*

(151-152) Pfeiffer discusses Grey's view of people helping others. *"While no one would accuse Grey of being a socialist, his idea of the importance of service did carry over to some extent into social programs...He believed that this should be primarily the work of private enterprise...The major exception would be government aid to the veterans of World War One."* In **TLOWS** Madeline uses her wealth and social conscience to improve drastically the lives of her cowboys and the nearby Mexican villagers."

(172) *"Friendship is a vital commodity for those who live outside the law, and perhaps in such circumstances its loss is felt more keenly.* Pfeiffer mentions the importance of the friendship between Madeline Hamilton and her brother's fiancé, Florence Kingsley in **TLOWS**.

(177) Pfeiffer comments, *"While the family is important to Grey, there is not a great deal of family life portrayed in his stories"*, and he mentions the indifferent parents in **TLOWS**.

(231) Pfeiffer comments, *"Grey believed that death should be faced bravely"*, and he cites the death of Stewart in **TLOWS** as an example.

(253) In **TLOWS** Grey assumes God's existence.

(394) Grey's characters in his Western romantic novels were impressed with the simplicity and equality of the West, such as Madeline's being impressed at how her brother's fiancée treated her.

(407) In **TLOWS** the Marshall is a "bad" Marshall.

(414-415) By using a female as the only speaker or narrator in **TLOWS** Grey *"uses descriptions that would appeal more to female than to male readers."*

(488) In answer to many critics who state that Grey's heroes seem to all come from the East, Pfeiffer notes that in **TLOWS** the hero Stewart *"is an enigma. We are told he was not a Westerner, but are not told from whence he came or why. We learn he 'comes of a good family' and 'was a college man and a gentleman once'."*

(491) *"In TLOWS, the Westernizing of Madeline and the civilizing of Stewart run about neck and neck."*

(528) The marriage of Madeline and Stewart is most unusual in **TLOWS** in that *"Madeline is unknowingly married to Stewart in a Mexican ceremony in the first chapter, does not learn she is married until the second from the last chapter, and not even in the last chapter does she confess her love to her husband and seal her confession with a kiss."*

(568) Pfeiffer writes that *“For Grey the third instinct of man – to reproduce his kind, is powerfully present in the very fiber of being of every man and woman and only awaits an opportunity to break forth”*, and he believes that instinct is present in **TLOWS**.

Frank Gruber, Zane Grey: A Biography, Amereon Ltd., First Edition – September 1, 1969) (ISBN 0891907564)

References (118, 121, 131, 212)

(118) The background for **TLOWS** was New Mexico, and the story is totally different from his previous Western romances.

(121) *“At the time of the writing of TLOWS in 1914 the Mexican troubles were still front-page news. The United States had already sent a naval and marine expedition to Veracruz, with a notable cast of attending war correspondents, including such notables as Richard Harding Davis and Jack London.”*

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 (234-5, 272, 290, 305, 310, 314, 340)

(234-235) **TLOWS** is the predecessor of **MAJESTY’S RANCHO** (1942)

(272) The conclusion to **TLOWS** is one of Grey’s most memorable.

(290) A major theme of **TLOWS** is the briefness of life and the value of friendship.

(305) American men stand out in sharp relief against the Europeans.

(310) Only through actual work can one avoid boredom and ennui.

(314) Although there are good Mexicans in **TLOWS** the balance sheet shows the negative aspects predominating.

(340-341) Grey was against the old, more painful method of branding cattle. Grey approved of a more humane method: *“All branding was done in corrals, and calves weaned from mother-cows at the proper time to benefit both. The old method of branding and classing, that had so shocked Madeline, had been abandoned, and one had been inaugurated whereby cattle and cowboys and horses were spared brutality and injury.”* Early traditional branding was done by heating a branding iron to glowing red hot then placing it on un-anaesthetized skin to burn the hair leaving a permanent scar in the shape of a symbol. More humane, later branding methods,

include electric and freeze branding which does not scar the skin, but damages the pigment-producing hair cells, causing the animal's hair to grow back white in the branded area. An even less painful method of marking cattle is by using microchips placed under the skin, as is often done with pet dogs and cats.