

THE DAY OF THE BEAST

Synopsis and Research Summaries

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Zane Grey's West Society

The
Day of the Beast
By
ZANE GREY

Herein is embodied my
tribute to the American
men who gave themselves
to the service in the great
war, and my sleepless
and eternal gratitude
for what they did for me.

Zane Grey

Harper & Brothers
Publishers - Established 1817



Source: By John Singer Sargent, 'Gassed' (1919)

INTRODUCTION

Three badly wounded, emotionally distressed soldiers return to New York following their release from an overseas hospital. The three are disappointed with the lack of a hero's welcome when they arrive in New York. They become further disappointed and upset with what they find in their hometown of Middleville, namely what they see as moral disintegration of youngsters and their fellow school mates for whom they had made their personal sacrifices. Daren Lane is further angered when he learns his fiancée had jilted him while he was away.

Lane eventually decides he would like to marry the young lady, Mel Iden, in order to give her war baby son a name. She refuses his many pleadings. All the while he tries to change his sister and her girl friends and to deal with the despicable behavior of those young men who were degrading them. The novel follows the efforts of Daren Lane to right the social wrongs which arose as a result of the war. In the end he realizes the important steadfastness of women and their role in rising to overcome the sadness that had gripped the nation.

LIST OF MAJOR CHARACTERS

(XX) Indicates the page where each character first appears in the Walter J. Black, Inc., edition of *THE DAY OF THE BEAST*.

- **Daren Lane (3)**...a severely wounded, physically exhausted soldier returning from World War I Germany who doctors have predicted has only a short time to live.
- **Blair Maynard (4)**...a fellow returning veteran walking with the aid of a crutch.
- **Red Payson (9)**...a slight boy not over twenty-two, a fellow returning wounded soldier.
- **Margaret Blair (aka Margie) (14)**...Blair's eighteen-year-old belligerent sister.
- **Lorna Lane (24)**...Daren's fifteen-year-old sister who left school and went to work.
- **Dr. Bronson (40)**...the Blair family doctor.
- **Mel Iden (43)**...a twenty-year-old girl who had been in high school with Daren and who had a war baby.
- **Matt Jones (49)**...an old acquaintance of Daren's before he left for service.
- **Mrs. Wrapp (58)**...Helen's mother who saw Daren in a positive light when he returned.
- **Helen Wrapp (62)**...twenty-year-old girl who had been Daren Lane's fiancée'. She broke their engagement without telling him while he was off to war in Germany.
- **Richard Swann (63)**...went to school with Daren and escaped service due to poor eyesight, and because his father had a big Army contract in steel. Dick had become rich. Daren called him a "slacker" for avoiding service.
- **Hardy Mackay (63)**...went to school with Daren and escaped service because he was overweight. Daren called him a "slacker" for avoiding service.
- **Bessy Bell (63)**...a fifteen-year-old friend of Helen Wrapp. Bessy seems to like Daren when they meet. She tells Daren to call her for a date.

- **Roy Vancey (64)**...he was dancing with Helen when Daren went to see her.
- **Dorothy (Dal) Dalrymple (87)**...sister of Holt, a girl who was less liberal than other girls.
- **Flossie Dickerson, Dorothy (Dal) Dalrymple, Joyce and Elinor Kingsley, Rose Clymer, Kit Benson (87 - 91)**...additional girl friends of Helen and Margaret.
- **Colonel Dennis Pepper (107)**...an acquaintance of Daren's who was fond of cards and sport.
- **Holt Dalrymple (118)**...boyfriend of Margaret Maynard of whom her mother disapproves.
- **Harry Hale (151)**...a boy of eighteen who sometimes dated Lorna, Daren's sister.
- **Captain Vane Thesel (153)**...had been in school with Daren. Daren had served under him in the war. Thesel had returned to Middleville to spread negative rumors about Daren.
- **Miss Amanda Hill (157)**...the schoolteacher of the girls who objected to their behavior.
- **Rose Clymer (157)**...a sixteen-year-old classmate of Lorna's who is expelled for not telling who wrote the vulgar, suggestive notes being passed around in class.
- **Gail Williams (243)**...Lorna's friend who was going to the club with her the night of a raid.
- **Chief of Police Bell (246)**...father of Bessy Bell.
- **Dr. Wallace (269)**...an old Iden family minister who marries Daren and Mel.
- **Frank Maynard (279)**...Blair's father who had failed in business.

SYNOPSIS

Chapter 1. Three badly wounded, emotionally scarred World War I soldiers (Daren Lane, Blair Maynard, and Red Payson) are on a ship returning to New York City after being released from a hospital following action in the Argonne. "My own—my native land!" whispered Daren Lane as they approach the Statue of Liberty. They wonder about the kind of reception they will receive and whether or not their sacrifices had been in vain. Daren had been diagnosed as not having long to live. Blair Maynard is missing one leg and walks with a crutch. Red Payson is chronically ill. His habitual weary nonchalance and his fatal attitude is the worst of the three. They are headed for three days in a barracks hospital for soldiers before being released to go home. Daren is thinking about the fiancée he had left behind two years earlier, a fiancée he fears who had jilted him due to his lack of receiving letters from her for over a year. They are headed for their hometown, Middleville, a prosperous and thriving inland town of twenty thousand inhabitants in the middle and eastern United States. When they reach their hometown they are amazed at how small it looks, compared to what they remember from when they left. The agony of joy and sorrow is apparent on the face of Blair's mother. Passers-by stare and whisper. Daren meets his mother, who doesn't recognize him immediately.

Chapter 2. Daren talks about possibly getting his old job back. His mother says Hattie Wilson has his old job. His mother tells him of their financial difficulties. She tells him his sister Lorna has left school to go to work, and he won't recognize her. She tells him his fiancée Helen Wrapp has not been to see her, and that girls have changed. Lorna sees his French *Croix de Guerre*, and she asks him why America never gave him a medal. Daren is shocked at his sister's skimpy dress. He learns that his commander Captain Thesel has spread bad rumors about him.

Lorna tells him his old fiancée Helen is nutty about Dick Swann, a draft dodger. Daren is unable to understand the jazz era mod-talk of his sister.

Chapter 3. Daren visits with Dr. Bronson, the family physician. He tells the doctor he was wounded, bayoneted, and gassed. The doctor tells Daren he can help with his painful vertebrae problem, but there is not likely anything that can save his life. As he is leaving the doctor's office he meets Mel Iden, a girl with whom he had gone to high school. He learns she has had a war baby. Daren goes to see his old boss and learns he will not get his old job back, since a young girl is doing the job "very satisfactorily" and for less pay. Blair and Daren agree to help each other and play the game to the end.

Chapter 4. Daren goes to see Helen Wrapp, his old fiancée. He is well received by Helen's mother who expresses concern about the way Helen had taken to partying and running with the wrong crowd. He meets several of Helen's new friends, sees them dancing a dance he believes to be immoral. He finds the slacker Dick Swann and another slacker, Hardy Mackay, partying with Helen and her friends. He also meets a fifteen-year-old girl, Bessy Bell, another of Helen's friends, but one who seems less liberal. She seems to like Daren, and she tells him to call her for a date. He is impressed with Bessy. Daren tells Helen his love for her has died. He explains his sacrifice has been in vain after he sees what has happened to his sister and to Helen.

Chapter 5. Several mothers of the young girls are upset with Daren for unloading upon Fanchon Smith's mother about her daughter's dress and vulgar dancing at Fanchon's party. Mrs. Wrapp supports Daren, as she also feels the dress is indecent and the dance rotten. Elinor Kingsley and Flossie Dickerson stand up on behalf of Daren. Helen says he should have unloaded on the men, not the girls. Margaret objects to any talk against Mel Iden.

Chapter 6. Mrs. Maynard tries to convince Margaret to stop dating Daryl Dalrymple and to consider marrying Richard Swann, something Swann's father and Margaret's father believe would be good for their business. Mrs. Maynard encourages Margaret to marry well, someone with money. Margaret says she hates Richard Swann, and that she will never marry him.

Chapter 7. Daren continues to be concerned about his sister's behavior, which he has been unable to correct. He is impressed with Harry Hale, who Lorna sometimes dates, but with whom she is not in a serious relationship. Due to Daren's criticism, Lorna has quit having boys in cars meet her at their home. Instead she walks to meet them a few blocks away. Daren is also concerned about the plight of Mel Iden and her young child. In the lobby of the Bradford Inn, Daren steps between Colonel Pepper and a stranger who was threatening him as a result of an embarrassing joke or trick the Colonel had played on him. Daren asks the Colonel to help him straighten out Holt Dalrymple, something Holt's sister Dorothy had asked Daren to do. The Colonel makes his feelings known about the shoddy treatment of returning soldiers by the government.

Colonel Pepper tells Daren about a club where rowdy boys go to smoke, drink, and gamble, a place to which they sometimes bring girls, a place he has secretly spied upon. He offers Daren the opportunity to go and spy for himself. He tells Daren he had seen his sister at a roadhouse dancing and drinking spiked lemonade, the liquor poured into her drink by Dick Swann. Daren learns Swann and another slacker, Harold Mackay, are at the head of the secret club. The Colonel brings Daren to one of the club rooms where men are gambling. Daren sees Swann, Mackay, and the newcomer named White. Daren wants to take Holt Dalrymple home before he gets drunk. After a verbal altercation with Swann, Daren takes Holt to the inn where he talks to him for an hour. Holt tells Daren that he and Margie Maynard are in love, but her mother doesn't like him.

Back home Daren tells his sister he is going to stop her car rides with the boys. His mother tells him that won't work with Lorna. Daren goes to see Mel Iden, who objects to his coming. He tells her he is willing to marry her in order to give her war baby a name. She refuses and tells him to not come visiting again. He tells her she'll regret that when he dies. She reneges and says he can return to visit her.

Chapter 8. Red Payson dies as a result of a fall while in Washington, D.C. while awaiting the results of his appeal to the government for money to allow him to travel west to a dry climate. Blair Maynard talks Daren into going to the prom with him to observe what the youngsters do, each of them having a sister who would be attending. Blair tells Daren he has heard Dick Swann was rushing Daren's sister Lorna. At the prom they observe Swann with Blair's sister, Margaret. Blair is concerned his mother is attempting to influence Margaret to marry Swann because he is rich. Swann is actually escorting Helen Wrapp, Daren's old fiancée. Daren sees Bessy Bell who reminds him she is still waiting for him to call her for a date. Daren tells Bessy he is not happy with what he sees there. She asks him to dance with her, and he refuses. As he was with Fanchon Smith's party, Daren is upset at what he sees, the vulgar dancing and the car rides to which some of the girls disappear with some of the boys. Daren sees Captain Vane Thesel with Helen. Helen is rude to Blair, who tells her he should never have gone to the war to defend her and other girls, instead he should have left them in the clutch of the Huns.

Chapter 9. The schoolteacher of the girls, Miss Amanda Hill, is upset with the conduct of the girls, and she challenges several of them over obscene and distasteful notes that are being passed around. She expels Rose Clymer for refusing to tell who wrote the notes. She learns that Bessy Bell is the author of most of the notes. Bessy tells the teacher about the Girl's Literary Guild where the girls meet boys to dance, boys who sometimes bring things to drink. The teacher approaches Mrs. Bell to tell her what she has learned, and Mrs. Bell tells her she trusts Bessy and asks the teacher to leave. Because she is afraid her stern stepfather would learn about her having been expelled, Rose Clymer tells him she is quitting school to go to work to help with their finances, something he says is a good idea.

Chapter 10. Rose has difficulty finding a job. She is approached by Dick Swann who offers her a job. Although she initially refuses him, she ultimately agrees to meet him, and she goes for a ride with him.

Chapter 11. After spying upon the boys' club from Colonel Pepper's secret room, Daren decides he will bust up the club. Daren learns his sister had stayed out all night, and he retrieves his Colt automatic gun vowing to himself that he will kill Dick Swann, believing his sister is involved with him. He talks with Blair about a plan to thwart Swann. Daren again thinks about Mel Iden and what he might do to help her. He is upset about what he calls the physical, sensual, violent, simian instincts following the war which had engendered what he called "the Day of the Beast", the eroded culture that awaited those returning from the war. Daren goes to visit Joshua Iden, Mel's father, and he asks the father's permission to request Mel to marry him to provide a name for her war baby son. Her father approves, saying that if they marry, he will ask Mel to come back home from which he had expelled her.

Chapter 12. Dr. Bronson is impressed with Daren's health, and he tells Daren he is likely to live. Mel Iden refuses to marry Daren. Daren with his gun and a flashlight follows Dick Swann thinking he is taking Lorna for a ride. When he bushwhacks the parked car, he finds Swann is with Helen instead. He tells Swann he is damned lucky he had not been with his sister.

Chapter 13. Daren happens upon Bessy Bell. She tells him she has fallen for him and that she is tired of the bunch of sapheads with whom she has been hanging around. Bessy promises to quit associating with the sapheads if Daren will tell her about his war experience. He asks her about the club rooms. She pledges to stay away from them. They plan to secretly meet afternoons and evenings when her mother is out playing bridge. She tells him the teacher met with her mother, and her mother refuses to allow her to go back to school, making arrangements for her to be privately schooled. She tells him about Rose Clymer quitting school and going to work for Dick Swann. She gives Daren copies of the notes she had written that caused problems with the teacher. Daren reads them. He is upset realizing the mothers of the girls would not believe what Bessy had described that was going on with the boys. Bessy promises Daren she will change her ways and become the girl he wants her to be.

Chapter 14. Daren moves into Colonel Pepper's lodgings so he can increase his spying on the club. He begins following the cars to the parking areas. He renews his pledge to himself to marry Mel.

Chapter 15. People notice the withdrawal of Bessy from her peers. Rose Clymer notifies Bessy that there is going to be a raid on Dick Swann's club room, and that she thinks Gail Williams and Lorna have dates to go there. She asks Bessy to go to the club and make sure the girls are out of there before the raid embarrasses them. Bessy goes there and hides awaiting the girls.

Chapter 16. Daren sees his sister and Gail Williams going into White's Confectionary Store, a place where girls meet before going to the club room to meet boys. Blair tells Daren that his mother has encouraged his sister Margie to marry Dick Swann. Blair and Daren run into Holt Dalrymple who tells them he believes he saw Bessy heading for the club. Daren tells him he must be mistaken because she had turned her life around. He asks Holt to see Bessy occasionally. Holt agrees. Daren goes into White's, but he doesn't see Bessy. He heads for the Colonel's rooms to spy to see if anyone enters the club room. Soon he sees Dick Swann with

Gail Williams and his sister with Captain Thesel entering the club. Darren confronts them. Swann draws a pistol. Daren brings his own gun down on Swann's face dislodging the gun, and then he strikes Thesel. Both men lay on the floor unconscious. A loud sound is heard at the door as Chief Bell arrives to raid the place. Daren pushes the girls into a back room, closing the door behind them. Chief Bell sees Daren, and Daren tells him what he had done. The Chief seems to be pleased with Daren. As the men regain consciousness, Bessy walks out from where she had been hiding awaiting the girls. She tells her father she had come to warn Daren of the raid, about which she had heard from an anonymous caller. The Chief tells everyone "mum's the word". He jokingly tells Daren he is under arrest for gambling and fighting. Daren helps the two girls escape without being seen.

Chapter 17. The people of Middleville never find out the complete facts about the incident at the club room. Thesel and Swann claim a group of deranged soldiers had disrupted a gambling table. Mrs. Maynard still announces the engagement of her daughter Margaret to Richard Swann. Daren learns that during his hospital stay following the altercation, a girl had called each day inquiring about his condition. He knew it was Mel Iden. The same day he leaves the hospital he obtains a marriage license and goes to take Mel to be married, to which she finally agrees. Following refusals by several preachers and magistrates, they find an old Iden family minister, Dr. Wallace, who agrees to marry them. Mel asks Daren to move into her father's house, but he refuse, returning to his rented room.

Chapter 18. Mrs. Maynard regains her position in society by announcing her daughter Margaret's engagement to Richard Swann. At a New Year's party given by his mother, Blair overhears comments criticizing Daren. He speaks up dressing down the guests and praising Daren while saying he himself did not lose his leg, he sacrificed it. Following his derogatory tirade the guests leave. The wedding between Dick and Margaret takes place on January 10. When Swann goes to check on Margaret in her room, it is discovered she has run away. Her father finds her unconscious by the river thinking she had been trying to drown herself.

Chapter 19. In his rooming house Daren overhears in the hall an older man talking to a younger girl regarding earning money. He discovers the girl is Rose Clymer, who is very ill. She is being challenged by the landlady to pay her father's overdue rent. Daren pays the rent. He summonses Doctor Bronson to examine the girl. The doctor says she will die.

Chapter 20. Daren and Blair begin meeting in a warm train station waiting room where they are called bums and kicked out. Daren learns Mel's baby boy had died. Daren hallucinates imagining he sees an old woman. He awakens to see Mel's father. He has come to take Daren to live with him and Mel. Daren faints, and the old man takes him to the Iden home.

Chapter 21. Daren is offered the use of a cottage by a rich uncle. Mel and Daren move into the cottage. Daren feels himself getting stronger through walking in the forest and chopping wood.

Chapter 22. Daren learns from the doctor that he will likely live. His love for Mel had saved him. He begins to have remorse about Mel having given up her life to care for him, and he

realizes her sacrifice for the baby was due to the war rather than out of love for the father, and because of that she herself had perished. That thought haunts Daren. Daren considers suicide because he is unwilling to have a wife who had belonged to another before him.

Chapter 23. Mel cautions Daren about going near the rampaging flooded river. He learns that Blair has died. He goes to see Mrs. Maynard who was too ill to see him. He sees Blair's body. On the way home he has to cross a bridge over the rapidly flowing flooded river.

Chapter 24. Colonel Pepper strikes an old German man whom he had been teasing about the war. A man falls into the roiling river, and is seen struggling as he drifted downstream.

Chapter 25. As Daren is returning from a walk in the woods he sees a man floating down the river clinging to a piece of driftwood. He launches a rowboat to try to reach the man. He is caught in the current. He reaches the man and gets him into the boat only to discover the man is Richard Swann. The boat is destroyed in the rapids, but Daren manages to safely drag Swann to shore where people who are watching grab both of them. Daren faints. He awakens in the Iden's parlor. He learns he saved Swann's life. He tells Mel he loves her, and that in spite of war, wealth, and men, women must rise. Mel speaks sweet words, and Daren dies in her arms.

HELPFUL RESEARCH AND STUDY SUMMARIES

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

References (40, 53)

(40) *THE DAY OF THE BEAST (TDOTB)* is a virtual tirade against the modern youth of the period (immediate post-World War I). In 1922 he (Zane Grey) considered dancing immoral because of the close contact between the body of a male and female stimulated sexual desire. He was even more of a moralist in 1900. He would kiss a girl he liked, but he would not condone "necking" for himself any more than he would for anyone else.

(53) The original title for *TDOTB* was *THE SHORES OF LETHE* when he wrote it in 1921. The title was changed to *TDOTB* when it was published in 1922.

(Note: In Greek mythology, *Lethe* is one of the five rivers of the Greek Underworld. *Lethe* borders the final resting place of the virtuous. Newly dead who drank from the River *Lethe* would lose all memory of their past existence. The shades of the dead were required to drink the waters of *Lethe* in order to forget their earthly life. The Greek word "*lethe*" literally means oblivion, forgetfulness, or concealment.)

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 (151, 259)

(151) 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. True to his background, however, he believed that this should be primarily the work of private enterprise. The major exception would be government aid to veterans of World War One. Grey believed the government owed a great debt to veterans who gave life and limb for America.

(259) **THE SHEPHERD OF GUADALOUPE** and **TDOTB** is concerned with the shoddy treatment of veterans returning from a war and the societal moral revolution following a war. Grey was far more interested in the results of the war than in the war itself – more concerned with its effect on body and mind and morals than he was in using his descriptive ability to portray the glory of patriotism or the horror of trench warfare.

(Note: Grey's **THE CALL OF THE CANYON** also has a post war theme of "let's go back to the simple life we had before the war – and it will probably be necessary to leave the wicked cities in order to do so.") (Wheeler p. 177)

(Note: This concern is apparent in other Grey novels, including **THE DESERT OF WHEAT**. Other novelists, such as John Nichols in **AMERICAN BLOOD** deal with the challenges facing returning veterans who have sacrificed body, mind, and limb and who experience less than gratefulness from other Americans who have not served. Veterans returning from the Viet Nam conflict were especially subjected to ill treatment and abuses.)

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, 166, 170-171, 177, 215, 271, 277, 312, 331-335)

(57) The noble hero Zane Grey stereotype does not mesh with Daren Lane's keyhole spying in **TDOTB**.

(166) **TDOTB** is, perhaps, Grey's most philosophical book, sharing honors only with **THE DESERT OF WHEAT**.

(170-171) Grey had been working on **TDOTB** ever since 1905 and hadn't been able to persuade Harpers to publish it; they did so now only because he had threatened to quit writing if they didn't. Always, it seems the book has been underrated. Basically, it is a story of a veteran's difficult adjustment to civilian life – in a world where the values had changed. The disillusioned

Daren Lane is Zane Grey, who himself felt out of touch with the new amoral age with all the old anchors gone. It is the only Eastern romance Grey wrote. It is one of the few Zane Grey books with an unhappy ending. During World War I, Grey spent a lot of time in Middletown, New York, studying the town's young people; he attended their social activities and listened to their conversations – it all went into the book. He had always wanted to write psychological fiction and the publication of **THE DESERT OF WHEAT** seems to have cured him of this yearning. (Loren Grey considers **TDOTB** to be a kind of sequel to **THE DESERT OF WHEAT**.)

(177) **TDOTB** is one of Grey's strongest attacks against Flapperism which arose during the jazz era following World War I.

(215) In **TDOTB** the protagonist Daren Lane would, in effect, commit suicide rather than continue to coexist with a wife (Mel Iden) who had belonged to another before him.

(271) In **TDOTB** Grey chooses to kill his hero Daren Lane, most unusual for Grey.

(277) Grey's use of figurative language relating to representation by means of animal or human figures or even inanimate objects is shown by his use of metaphor in **TDOTB**. *"And so, at length, Lane's black demon of despair overthrew even his thoughts of Mel, and fettered him there, in darkness and strife of soul. He was an atom under the grinding, monstrous wheels of his morbid mood."* (good alliteration)

(312) For some unknown reason, Grey really disliked the Germans. Of course, the World War mightily fueled the flames of his dislike...**TDOTB** (is) violently anti-German.

(Note: Other of Grey's works in which his harsh view of Germans is apparent include **THE VANISHING AMERICAN** and **THE DESERT OF WHEAT**.)

(331-335) Grey was concerned with the millions who never survived the hideous weapons of warfare. Grey attacked the lowest of the male species, the slackers; profiteering and corruption was also scored. In **TDOTB** Grey explores the idealism which caused so many thousands of Americans to volunteer instead of waiting to be drafted. Another source of disillusion resulted from soldiers who went to France to preserve the virginity of their women only to discover that these same women freely surrendered it while the soldiers were dying or being maimed for life in Europe. Grey, for some unknown reason, felt it was wrong for women to practice birth control – far better to bring an illegitimate child into the world. False, said Grey, was the common conception that war was glorious and noble. War was disillusioning to Zane Grey because it vividly proved that man, who was supposedly evolving to a higher species, was retrograding to the level of the beasts. But the war years were just part of the story to Grey; what happened to the two million returning European veterans, hundreds of thousands of them physical, mental (or both) wrecks, was even more important than the direct damage the war had caused.

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 (33, 54, 120)

(33) Grey's attack on post-World War I moral standards were so appealing that he continued writing novels, articles, and short stories on the subject. One of his most cutting assaults on the "new morality" came in *The Day of the Beast*, an eastern novel. Not dealing with the desert, it maintained, nevertheless, the theme of lamentation over the condition to which America had degenerated.

(54) Grey wrote: "All these years my idea has been to win a public, and then write the powerful psychological novels of love, passion, and tragedy, that I am capable of writing. For long I have been divided between this course, and of throwing all my study and work, passion and nature, into what I really do best – an interpretation of nature." Having made this important decision about his writing, Grey wavered only once, in 1922, when he allowed the non-western novel, *The Day of the Beast*, to be published. Significantly, that book was one of the least successful he ever wrote.

(120) Grey asserted that a writer had a responsibility to say what he thought was wrong with society. He did so in a number of novels, such as *The Day of the Beast*. As early as his 1905 diary entries, Grey formed these conclusions: "The author must so thoroughly understand human nature that he will know exactly what and how great a motive is necessary for a certain act of a certain person. The great gift of a writer is sincerity. A writer must have strong and noble convictions about life."

Thomas A. Pauly, *Zane Grey His Life, His Adventures, His Women*, (University of Illinois Press – 2007) ISBN 978-0-252-03044-4

References (196-197)

(196-197) *The Day of the Beast* was the completed version of *Shores of Lethe*, a novel that Grey had worked on prior to his marriage and unsuccessfully revised at least four times. Daren Lane who gets badly wounded in World War I is the protagonist. As in many Hemingway stories, this physical wounding acquires a psychological dimension as Lane has to reckon with radically altered postwar conditions and values, which has the effect of worsening his illness. Lane is a native of Middleville, a thinly disguised version of Middletown, where Grey had been so depressed over his mother's death, and the unfolding war. (Readers are encouraged to read the rest of Thomas A. Pauly's brief synopsis on pages 196 and 197 of his 2007 book before they begin to read *The Day of the Beast*.)