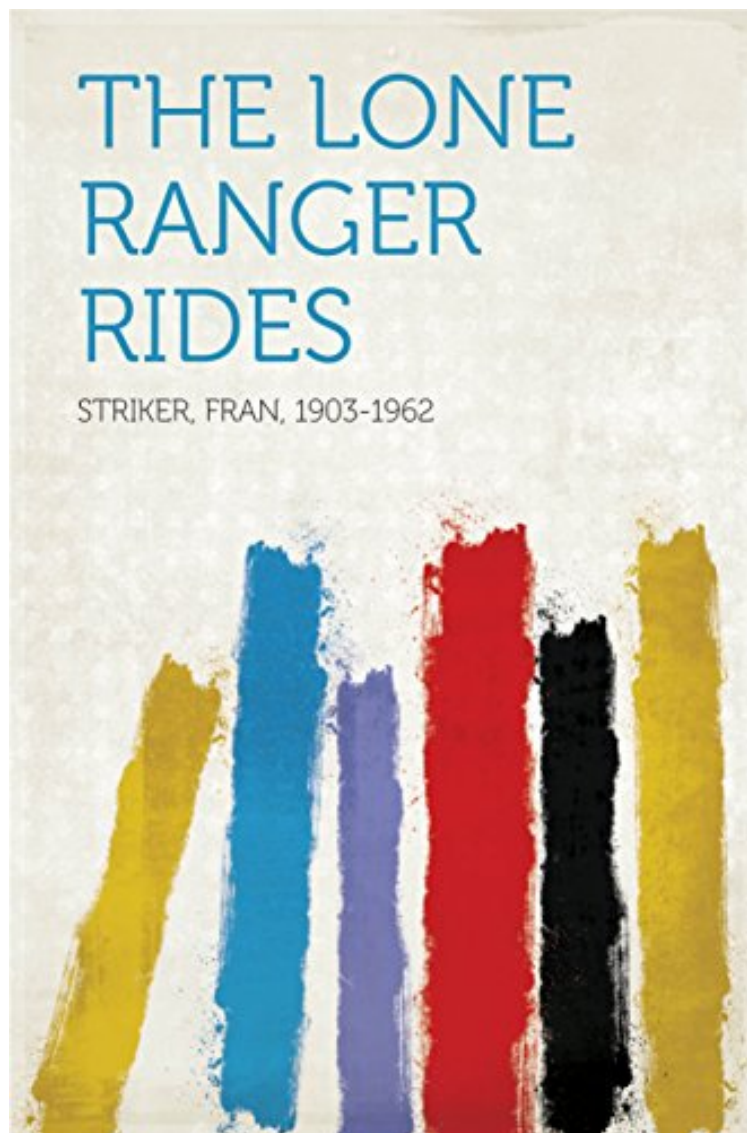


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Fran, 1903-1962 Striker

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Fran, 1903-1962 Striker : The Lone Ranger Rides before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lone Ranger Rides:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good, Clean ReadingBy Susan Marie MolloyThis was a good story, and it moved quickly, with lots of action and imaginative writing. I especially enjoyed the background chapters to the origins of Tonto, Silver, and The Lone Ranger. What you think you know about their origins will surprise and enlighten you and explain a lot of questions you may have had.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Enduring Icon of American CultureBy Walter StanleyThe Lone ranger, according to Wikipedia, is an enduring icon of

American culture. There were multitudes of western heroes who appeared in the 1930s which only aficionados, and old people, have ever heard of today. (Does anyone under thirty know who Hopalong Cassidy or Red Ryder are)? The Lone Ranger started in 1933 as a low-cost radio production, with not especially impressive acting, dialogue, or plots. Yet the Lone Ranger still appears in jokes, got a line from a Bob Dylan song (Oh, the Lone Ranger and Tonto, ridin on down the line. Fixin everybodys problems, everybodys except mine. Somebody mustve toldem that I was doin fine.), and was used in the title of Sherman Alexies *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, and is used as a catchphrase (Dont be the Lone Ranger) to remind a friend to keep in touch. This is not true, or at least not to the same extent, of other American icons, such as Zorro, Superman, and Tarzan. One cannot help but wonder why. Perhaps it was the rousing theme song, the excerpt from the *William Tell Overture*. When I watched the television series, over fifty years ago, I was always disappointed by the show itself after the introductory theme song, which was slow-paced and boring in comparison. Whatever the reason, he is. I first read a Lone Ranger origin novel when I was in the seventh grade. At that time, the graphic description of the massacre of the Texas Rangers was by far the most violent thing I had ever read. I do not know who wrote that, but it was not Fran Striker, the author of *The Lone Ranger Rides*, and [possibly] the originator of the Lone Ranger. Although there are some rather gritty scenes in Strikers novel, the massacre is not described at all. *The Lone Ranger Rides* is entertaining enough as pulp fiction. There are certainly better westerns one can read, so there is perhaps no reason to read this one except for curiosity about an American cultural icon, or to satisfy nostalgia. When read with such a motive, the novel is not disappointing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fun read, but not challenging. By Ventura D This book has nostalgic value, reminding me of the old fashioned western movies and comic books (Red Ryder, Gene Autry, and of course, Lone Ranger). The writing style and vocabulary are mature ("tocsin", "apprehensions", "...the bitter old man spat tobacco-flavored curses at the infirmities that restricted him..."). And yet...the plot seems a weak, depending on the kinds of coincidences that appear in the plots of the Hardy Boy books. Nevertheless, there is still some mystery about the identities of the good-guys and bad-guys that isn't revealed until near the end. The description of Thunder Mountain doesn't seem much like the mountains of west Texas. The fight between Silver and the bison didn't sound very convincing to me--I think that it would have ended in a stalemate after just a few minutes with Silver trotting off and the bison snorting and catching his breath. To me the Zane Grey novels have better characterizations and are more evocative of the western settings. Striker's book is entertaining and fun to read, but doesn't require the same reader engagement as books by other authors such as Tom Clancy or John D. MacDonald. You will probably enjoy the book if you suspend critical judgement and just go with the flow.

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About the Author Francis Hamilton Striker was born on August 19, 1903, in Buffalo, New York. While in Buffalo, he attended Lafayette High School and the University of Buffalo, before dropping out to join a theater company in New York City. After that, he jumped back to Buffalo as a radio announcer, then to Cleveland, back to Buffalo and out to Detroit. It was during this period that he began writing radio mysteries and westerns. In 1932, Striker began work on *The Lone Ranger*, writing as many as 156 scripts per year. When that became hugely popular, he followed up with *The Green Hornet*, which featured a descendent of the Lone Ranger and Sergeant Preston of the Ukon. Due to the popularity of the subject, Striker began writing Lone Ranger novels, comic strips and movie serials. As television began to grow into a more popular medium and radio serials began to fade, Striker began writing the scripts for *The Lone Ranger* TV show. While moving with his wife and children on September 4, 1962, he was killed in an automobile accident, at the age of 59, in Elma, New York. He is buried in Arcade Rural Cemetery in Arcade, New York.