



## Beyond the Sand Creek Bridge

*Scott Wyatt*

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1882. Northern Pacific Railroad Camp, Idaho Territory.

The body of Sheriff Roger Langston is found beneath the Sand Creek Bridge. Chinese railroad worker Wong Hok-Ling is charged with murder days after the unexpected arrival of his fiancee, Mei-Yin, who has escaped her unscrupulous father and stowed away aboard a ship bound for America. Jason McQuade, the territory's newest lawyer, must defend the accused, but after encountering the beautiful Mei-Yin how far is he willing to go--what sacrifices will he make--to save his client's life?

## Beyond the Sand Creek Bridge Details

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Author : Scott Wyatt

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## From Reader Review Beyond the Sand Creek Bridge for online ebook

### Trace says

I'm never comfortable reviewing fiction. Tastes in fiction are in the "to each his own" category. My wife bought this book in an office supply/bookstore in Sandpoint, Idaho, based on a recommendation of an employee who had not read the book. Her suggestion was based on "Chinese were once in the area." My wife finished reading the book before we returned on vacation and spent any time we had to drive somewhere with her nose poked in this book.

Mine and my wife's tastes in literature don't often overlap. When I finished "Grapes of Wrath" while on vacation, she suggested I start reading this book. I scrunched up my nose while looking at the cover and said, "I doubt that's my taste." I was wrong and, once again, re-learned the eternal truth of the adage "Don't judge a book by its cover." In the case of "Beyond the Sand Creek Bridge," I do not like the cover simply because the graphics force a face upon one of the characters. I hate that. I want to form my own image and appearance of characters. That's really my only complaint about this book.

"Beyond the Sand Creek Bridge" is a historical novel set in the 1880s during the expansion of the Northern Pacific Railroad through the panhandle of Idaho, which was a territory.

I'll write more about this book later - distracted.

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### Erin says

A harrowing and suspenseful story of a Chinese man accused of murder when everyone around him hates him.

Wong Hok-Ling left China to work in the United States on the Railroad. He was to work there for three years and then return home. After the three years, he does not return home because the company employing them will not release his papers. His fiancee, Mei-Yin, decides to pose as a male, and jump aboard the boat to go find her beloved. After her arrival, her fiancee is accused of murdering the sheriff. Would you really be able to have a fair trial in a court room full of people who hate you from the beginning?

This book was captivating. The author did a great job helping the reader build a relationship with the characters. You could feel their pain when being subjected to the pain and torture, the humiliation, and the discrimination that Hok-Ling, Mei-Yin, and the other railroad workers endure.

I received a copy of this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

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### Dondi Lum says

I'm a sucker for historical fiction, & haven't seen many novels about this era in American history. Beyond the Sand Creek Bridge was descriptive & historically accurate. It sheds light on how our railroads were built, &

how the settlers of the old west (so poorly) treated those men who gave up everything of their lives in China for the hope of a better life upon return. The story of love & murder was engaging.  
Bravo, Scott Wyatt! Can't wait for your next book!

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### **Phyllis Jay says**

Loved this book. It was based on my hometown. I was really able to put myself in the middle of the story.

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### **Melinda says**

I won this on Goodreads First Reads - thank you et al

Beyond the Sand Creek Bridge is a solidly written HF novel. Kudos to Mr. Wyatt on such an impressive first novel. I look forward to future writings by Mr. Wyatt. The novel was entertaining overall. I had trouble with the amorous undertones of the main protagonist and his lack of professional ethics (he conducted himself in such a manner he was the stereotypical sleazeball attorney). Jason is a narcissistic opportunist that has failed to understand his position and duties/proper conduct as the role of counselor. I just couldn't get into his willy nilly immature ways. Jason did somewhat redeem himself slightly in the last few chapters. I also wasn't sure of the ending, I would have preferred a more definitive conclusion. All in all it was a great read with the exception of the two dislikes I noted. Great effort Mr. Wyatt, I see a promising writing career.

GO Cardinals!

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### **Sharon Nale says**

Since I lived in that area for 26 years, I thought I'd really enjoy learning some history about the Chinese laborers who helped build the railroad that made that region grow so quickly. I had a hard time keeping interest. Not certain exactly why, because so many things were going on in my life that it was just too easy to lay down and promise to come back to. I don't think it was the writing. Just my life was too intense for a long time. I was glad to finally finish it, which I saw as an accomplishment since it took so long, and I am a person who is driven to completion! I would rate it 7 on a scale of 10. Interesting, enlightening, but not a page-turner.

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### **Charlie says**

Excellent Fiction book (434 pages) by Scott Wyatt. Really well written. I felt as if I was right there with these characters. The way Scott describes what is going on as well as the emotions of the characters is as good as it gets.

Never a dull moment and always something interesting going on in every chapter. I believe this was as close to Historical Fiction as it could get.

Thanks Scott for a top notch book to read. This was my first book that I received as a 'First Read' from

Goodreads.

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## **Grady says**

Chinese immigrants fighting for love and equality in the Old West

Kudos to Scott Wyatt for opening a passage of history that needs to be examined if we are to ever understand completely the degree of prejudice that our forefathers acted out in this country we treasure as a haven for understanding and acceptance. He takes us all the way back to 1882 and the importation of cheap Chinese labor to construct to the Northern Pacific Railroad.

But as sensitive as Wyatt is to his own cause of elevating and sustaining public awareness of all that human beings have in common, their differences notwithstanding that has resulted in his creation of the Companion Flag Project, he begins his book in Kwangchow, China where we meet the beautiful Mei-Yin whose father had promised her hand in marriage to one Hok-Ling who has been shipped to the US to work the railroads, creating a dowry to bring back to China to claim his bride. But time has passed and it is through the kindness of a woman who has recently lost her son - a son who had booked passage to America - that she allows Mei-Lin to take the passage booking: Mei-Lin is off to America to be with her promised husband. Her attempt to reunite is thwarted: she has to pass as a man in order to enter the country and when she locates Hok-Ling she discovers that he is accused of the murder of Roger Langston, the town sheriff, who was found murdered under the local Sand Creek Bridge. Devastated Mei-Yin hears that recent Harvard graduate and attorney-in-training Jason McQuade will represent Hok-Ling in his trial. McQuade believes in equality for all men, and wants to make sure that Hok-Ling will receive a fair trial, despite McQuade's envious attraction to Mei-Lin.

Wyatt's writing is terse an eloquent and some of the most moving portions of the book are contained in the trial scene where McQuade offers his summary to the jury: 'You see, human beings are not just different - they're different and the same. And just as the freedom to hate attaches to the sphere of differences, which we always have in view, the presumption of innocence and the requirement of proof beyond a reasonable doubt attach to the sphere of human sameness, the one we oftentimes don't see at all. You see, the presumption of innocence and the requirement of proof beyond a reasonable doubt have nothing to do with the color of your skin, your nationality, what language you speak, or what you believe. It is rooted in one thing, all that human beings have in common. It is rooted here in the sphere of our common humanity.' This is a book that offers a solid story, a bit of history, and some food for thought.

Grady Harp

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## **Jennie Menke says**

Interesting read. Didn't know much of the history of the Chinese and the railroad. Pretty appalling. I'm familiar with the area, so that was a nice bonus. Felt like some of the characters and plot were sort of two dimensional and unrealistic, but I'm giving it 4 stars anyway.

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### **Sriram says**

The plot was developed well in the beginning, but the story and its narration started declining rapidly after 50% into the book. It took a nosedive towards the end.

Interesting to know about Chinese workers and their involvement in building the railroad though.

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### **Anita says**

Wow!

I loved the historical setting. the various paths of Life that brought each person to this town.

The bad people: terrible sheriff mean and drunk - since the death of his wife. the terrible father of Mei-Yin to gambol her away, steal her money, etc. Mr Keating of the Railroad who would not give the travel pass. and the foreman who abuses his own countrymen.

the good people: Jason's landlady, wise and kind. Lee Chi-Man the interpreter, also wise, in what he does NOT say. Jason, new lawyer, came to escape, but finds the moral courage to "Do the Right Thing".

I loved his closing arguments of the case.

I cannot say more, without spoiling the plot, main character Wong Hok-Ling is a great disappointment in the end.

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### **Barbara Carole says**

Wyatt is a great storyteller. A fascinating look into the lives, the intrigues and the challenges of Chinese railroad builders. Loved it.

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### **Bindia says**

Incredible and one of a kind book that transports to the year 1882 - the time of Pacific northwest railroad development. The adverse conditions for Chinese immigrants and workers, the audacity of unjust employers, the ultimate triumph of thinking clearly, the art of persuasion, the power of one versus the power of masses - these are all what one gets to feel and visualize throughout the book. One encounters the good, bad and the ugly of humanity in various characters in the story.

Mei Lin, Hok Ling invite us into their lives, via the author's storytelling talent, to understand how a human being finds the bleakest flutter of hope in harsh circumstances only to be drawn endlessly into a vortex of unfamiliar aspects of society.

Jason McQuade reminds one of a young Atticus who still has to make his way into the bigger world,

nevertheless has the foundation of being a great difference maker already.

Very few books have the audacity to capture the historical factoids in a non-fictional way. Scott Wyatt comes across as a keen, intelligent, well researched, fact based author.

I also read about the Companion Flag Project founded by Scott Wyatt. Its great to know, there is still hope for humankind on this planet. Scott - thank you! you are a difference maker in your story telling and also leading with example in real life.

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### **Kathi says**

This was a good story, but I was disappointed in the ending. Too many loose strings left untied.

Also, too many gaps in the action throughout, where the reader is left to guess what really happened. It could have been more developed, more detail. For example, Mei-Yin travels from China to the U.S. by boat disguised as a man. So many scenes, conflicts and adventures could have been added, but the entire trip was glossed over. So much missed potential.

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### **Alex says**

Looking into the lives of the Chinese who built the railroads going west. This is a fictional story of a young Chinese woman and how she follows her love to America (the Gold Mountain).

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