



Defiance of Eagles

William W. Johnstone, J.A. Johnstone

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"Falcon MacCallister is heir to a proud Scottish tradition, a man who has built a legend of courage on the wild American frontier. Boyd Ackerman is no ordinary criminal. Trained by the U.S Army, commanding his band of killers with military efficiency, Ackerman has outsmarted and outfought every lawman who has tried to stop him. But he's never faced MacCallister before."--P. [4] of cover.

Defiance of Eagles Details

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From Reader Review Defiance of Eagles for online ebook

Donald Houston says

Another hit!!!

As usual Johnstone has written a great yarn! The Eagles series's is entertaining today the least. I enjoy all of his books!

Thomas Christian says

Good book

After reading "Flintlock" I was hesitant to buy another book by this author. I found that I enjoyed this book. Good guys 21, bad guys 0 at times unrealistic but I like good over evil.

Nyokabi says

This is a very good book and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. It held my attention. Will keep on reading more of Johnstone's books.

Moon says

I really have to get more of William Johnstone's books! He is a really great writer!

These are not usually the genre of books I like, so it says a lot that I was able to get into it from the beginning and stay hooked.

I was really lucky to win this book on Goodreads and I can't wait to read more about Falcon!

Sarah Peterson says

I won this book as a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

I'll start this off by saying I have never read a western before. I don't dislike westerns, they just aren't my thing. With that said, I can't compare this book to others of the genre, but I will review it by how well it was written.

The story was very interesting. I liked how the villain had an interesting backstory, and I believed that he

wasn't a bad guy in the beginning, he just got a bad rap for his mistake. Since he didn't know anything but military, his solution was to make an outlaw army. I liked that they gave him a full backstory that made sense.

The hero, however, didn't make a whole lot of sense to me. As I see now after reading this book, that this is part of a series of Falcon MacCallister novels. Hopefully the previous novels explain his character better, but jumping in to this book, you don't get a feeling of who Falcon is, other than a lot of people saying "Yeah, I've heard of him." and a bunch of outlaws wanting to kill him for the glory of it. That's really all I understood about Falcon from reading this book.

The main issue I had with this book was the writing. It felt like this story was originally much shorter, and the authors added lots of fluff and superfluousness to make it novel length. Mostly they added lots of redundant dialogue, though a couple of occasions there were entire scenes that had no bearing on the story itself. I could much more easily see this story as a novella in a compilation than as a standalone novel.

The dialogue between the characters was also rather awkward. Obviously this is a western, so I expect the authors to write the dialogue as people would speak in this place and time, which the authors did quite well for the most part. But there were some occasions where it seemed the characters spoke out of character for the sake of trying to explain the story, which they didn't even need to do in the first place because it was redundant. There seemed to be a lot of redundant dialogue, which as I said I believe was from the authors' need to make the book long enough for a novel.

But with all the not-so-stellar writing, I did like the story itself. It was a very easy and quick read and I wanted to see the good guy win in the end. I struggled between a 2 and a 3 star rating, but I settled on 3 because I liked the story itself, though it would have been so much better if it were shortened and used perhaps in a Falcon MacCallister compilation. Either that or the authors could have added a side story to it and take out all the fluff.

Patricia Mccammon says

I like all of William Johnstone. He is always accurate for the time period. I actually wanted this for my husband who is a big Johnstone fan

Gwen M Case says

Good reading

Brings back memories of when my husband and I were reading the books together, will keep on reading William Johnston books

Catherine Stickann says

Defiance of Eagles was an enjoyable read. It was an easy read. I won this book on Goodreads First Reads Giveaway. I enjoy a western occasionally, but for me it needs to be more than an easy read. It must be well

written. This book is full of stilted conversation, and underdeveloped characters. Mary Kate McVey's husband is brutally murdered in front of her and yet we never see her emotions as a result of this event. She does not go over the event in her head or express deep sorrow as one might expect. This lack of development of this main character disturbed me throughout the story. The text is peppered throughout with words that seem out of place; almost as if the writer wants to let the reader know that they have a better vocabulary than the bulk of the text demonstrates.

This was the first book I read of this series, so perhaps I would understand more what the title has to do with the story if I had read other books in the series. I believe titles should not be hard to understand. I finished the book still wondering what the title means.

I was not sure how to rate this book, as I would have rated it 2 stars for quality of writing and 3 stars for enjoyment. I am giving this book 3 stars because I think the readers attracted to this type of novel are not looking so much for quality writing as they are for a story that entertains them and gets their mind off of their own life.

Frank Evans says

Excellent read! Guns a blazin'

Three men out to rescue a lady in distress take on a crazed madman who leads an army of desperadoes. A town filled with outlaws brings on action galore. If you want action, this fills the bill.

Exapno Mapcase says

This is a Goodreads First Reads Review.

It's been many 'a year since I have read one of William Johnstone's books and I had forgotten how good they are. This story has all sorts of good characters from strong family, to a crazed villain, to a resident of a house of ill-fame that probably would not have been talked about in westerns of the past. This is a very good read and will leave you wanting more.

Randy says

Ackerman's Raiders are led by Boyd Ackerman, a West Point graduate cashiered from the army for dereliction of duty in that he'd refused orders to link up with another officer and caused that man's entire company of men to be wiped out by Indians while he waited only a mile away.

Ackerman objected and formed his own band, sneaking back into the fort late the same night and releasing everyone from the stockade, all guilty of various crimes. Ackerman runs his outfit by military rules and is quite successful.

But he also has revenge on his mind. Two of the men who testified at his court martial were Falcon MacCallister and his commanding officer, who happened to be Falcon's brother-in-law. When he reads in the paper that the man's daughter has just gotten married, he hatches a new plan.

he kidnaps the girl, murders her new husband, and then leaves a ransom note. Ackerman thinks he's covered his tracks well.

But he's made one big mistake. He has Falcon and two of his brothers on his trail.
