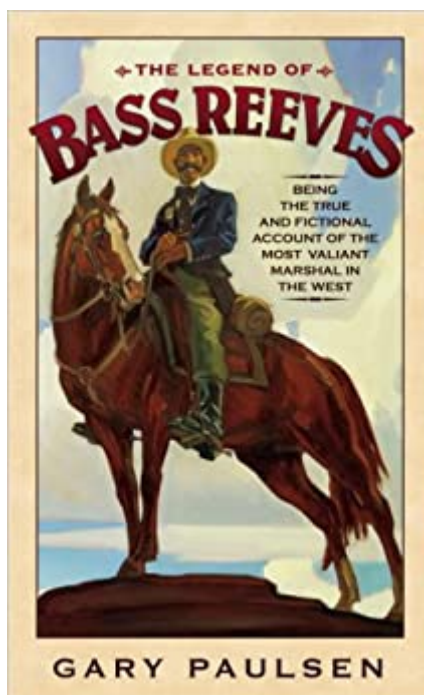


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# The Legend Of Bass Reeves



## Synopsis

Born into slavery, Bass Reeves became the most successful US Marshal of the Wild West. Many "heroic lawmen" of the Wild West, familiar to us through television and film, were actually violent scoundrels and outlaws themselves. But of all the sheriffs of the frontier, one man stands out as a true hero: Bass Reeves. He was the most successful Federal Marshal in the US in his day. True to the mythical code of the West, he never drew his gun first. He brought hundreds of fugitives to justice, was shot at countless times, and never hit. Bass Reeves was a black man, born into slavery. And though the laws of his country enslaved him and his mother, when he became a free man he served the law, with such courage and honor that he became a legend. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0950 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 60 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Upâ "Drawing on newspaper accounts and his own fertile imagination, Paulsen tells Reeves's story. Brief sections give the known facts of this hero's life, set in historical context, and longer, narrative sections (the longest being about his boyhood) fill out the details. The result is a compelling tale of the runaway slave who lived as a fugitive among the Creek Indians for 22 years, until the Emancipation Proclamation freed him to become a cattle rancher in Arkansas and, finally, a federal marshal appointed to help bring order to the Indian Territory. Bring order he did, with thousands of arrests and 14 gunfights to his credit. Paulsen doesn't romanticize the Wild West or

flinch from descriptions of the lawlessness (including murder and prostitution) that was rampant in the Territory, but this dark backdrop only serves to illuminate Reeves's heroism. The protagonist is a fully fleshed-out character whose story is made all the more satisfying by the truth behind it.â "Laurie Slagenwhite, Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, MI Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

\*Starred Review\* Gr. 5-8. Aptly subtitled "Being the true and fictional account of the most valiant Marshal in the West," this engrossingly told tale fills in the unrecorded youth of an unjustly obscure historical figure who was born a slave, became a successful rancher, then later in his long life went on to play an integral role in taming the rough-hewn Oklahoma Territory. After opening with clear-eyed looks at what Wild Bill Hickock, Wyatt Earp, and other western legends were really like, Paulsen portrays Reeves as a truer hero, formed into a tough, wily survivor with an unshakable sense of duty by experiences as a child on an isolated Texas ranch and later, as an escaped slave, among residents in the Indian Territory. Closing with reconstructed versions of some of Reeves' astonishing exploits as a lawman, the author makes his case convincingly while dishing up a stirring tale of adventure. GraceAnne DeCandido Copyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Nice easy read. Obviously though the author embellished alot of his earlier life which im not sure how I feel about honestly.....especially the earlier cringe worthy dialogue of him talking to his mother in a faux african american slave dialect supposedly...however luckily after the book progressed beyond that it was a good read. Still baffled though that many of the more unbelievable yet true amazing facts about the man didnt make it into this book. Which is weird because I'd have taken that over the made up b.s backstory that was added. Any beef I have with the book would be just that. Other than that gripe (which can be major depending on what youre expecting from the book) its entertaining and a nice introduction to a great man....However its not the best historical representation of he and his feats but serves as decent intro to someone who is just learning about him or for someone younger such as school children. I read it in one night.

Saw the special about him on the History channel. Got this for my husband who was interested in learning more. As he is a non-reader I was surprised and thrilled to see him avidly reading. He enjoyed it and is almost finished. It's not a thick book and is full of interesting bits.

A fine book for preteens and younger. The author has a unique agenda. He in the first chapter belittle all the great names of the Old West as a variety of scoundrels and village idiots all of them being caucasian Americans. Then in his book with 30% of it a sheer fantasy he tries to explain how Bass Reeves became one of the greatest lawmen in the West. I agree with all the factual data about this awesome and amazing Afro-American deputy marshal and his fantastic reputation. Definitely a character that was overlooked by history because of race.

A great unsung hero given his due. A great snapshot of his difficult early life as a young slave and son of a slave in early 1800s NE Texas. Geared toward Young Adult readers but adults will love it. Only drawback: Wishing there was enough of his story known to make a longer more details book. For African-American dads this is a great book to help you talk to your children about the topic of slavery and what kind of man should be a role model for black males.

Good read but way too short. Could have gone into much more detail but still enjoyable.

I bought this book for my nephew but I know he loves it because he requested it.

As far as factual information book is a lightweight easy read.

Mr. Paulsen admits that there is not a lot of historical fact written about this remarkable sheriff . Still, he weaves a well written account of Bass Reeves' legendary career as a law officer, by combining fact and fiction.. This book would be at home in any school library and would make a good study subject for middle school students. There is not a lot written about Negroes as heroes in the old west. This is a man who was one in every sense of the word. His remarkable arrest record was far and away above all others in his chosen profession. He managed this with remarkable skill, intuition and sheer determination to do his duty as a man of the law. Reading about him makes me wish I had met him.

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