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Go Down Together: The True, Untold Story Of Bonnie And Clyde



Synopsis

Bestselling author Jeff Guinn combines exhaustive research with surprising, newly discovered material to tell the real tale of two kids from a filthy Dallas slum who fell in love and then willingly traded their lives for a brief interlude of excitement and, more important, fame. *Go Down Together* has it all—true romance, rebellion against authority, bullets flying, cars crashing, and, in the end, a dramatic death at the hands of a celebrity lawman. This is the real story of Bonnie and Clyde and their troubled times, delivered with cinematic sweep by a masterful storyteller.

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Journalist Guinn (*Our Land Before We Die*), in this intensely readable account, deromanticizes two of America's most notorious outlaws (they were never... particularly competent crooks) without undermining the mystique of the Depression-era gunslingers. Clyde Barrow, a scrawny kid in poverty-stricken West Dallas in the late 1920s, stole chickens before moving on to cars, following in the footsteps of his older brother, Buck. In 1930, he met 19-year-old Bonnie Parker, and during the next four years Clyde, Bonnie and the ever-revolving members of the Barrow Gang robbed banks and armories all over the South, murdering at least seven people. Bonnie, who fancied herself a poet, wrote, *Some day they'll go down together, and they did, in a Louisiana ambush led by famed ex-Texas Ranger Frank Hamer.* With the brisk pacing of a novel, Guinn's richly detailed history will leave readers breathless until the final hail of bullets. 16 pages of b&w photos. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All

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All those who read Guinn's account of Bonnie and Clyde were impressed by the unprecedented level of detail he brings to the story. But a few seemed to think that all of Guinn's data got in the way of the chase. The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel admitted that the level of detail posed the book's "only problem," while acknowledging that "the legend still stands under its own power." Indeed, reviewers were generally pleased by Guinn's ability to add new layers to Bonnie and Clyde's brief, hardscrabble lives and to shed new light on their impulses without weighing them down. Reviewers were particularly interested in the idea of the duo as heroes of the Great Depression, with obvious anxiety that that era might not seem so distant these days. Yes, reviewers are prone to provide enthusiastic reviews for a newspaper's books editor; yet *Go Down Together* is still a strong book. Copyright 2009 Bookmarks Publishing LLC --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Go down together was "fantabulous". This book gave me a better understanding of how Clyde began and continued his life of crime. I have an understanding of how the Dallas police hounded him until he went to prison where he became a hardened person. My great uncle Malcolm Stanley Davis was a Tarrant County deputy sheriff and was killed by the barrow gang. The mention of this event is recorded in this book and it is recorded exactly how the story was told by my father. My father, Edward Davis and Gordon Tate captured one of the robbers of the First National Bank of Grapevine, Texas and the bank robbery is the reason Uncle Malcolm was on stake out in Dallas on January 6th, 1933 when he was killed. This book gave me an appreciation for Bonnie and Clyde I had never had, I am sorry uncle Malcolm was killed by the Barrow gang and I have no antipathy for any of the Parkers or Barrows. I went to school with Jimmy Barrow and we never had any trouble. I highly recommend this book if you want to know the truth about Bonnie and Clyde.

I loved this book. However, I felt the ending was a little short. The writer goes into great detail for hundreds of pages about the lives and activities of Bonnie and Clyde and then the end is like, "They shot Bonnie and Clyde and they died. A lot of people went to Bonnie's funeral, Clyde is buried on a hill. The End." There is information about their family member's lives after the death of Bonnie and Clyde but I don't know, I Guess I wanted more. It seems like after their deaths the book just sort of fizzled out. Also, I really wish the author would stop claiming that Bonnie wasn't a gifted poet. Just because she was no Thoreau doesn't mean her poems weren't entertaining. I loved a couple of them. My copy had quite a few typos which was somewhat annoying, and there was one whole

section that was repeated twice verbatim, almost like the author copied and pasted it to another spot in the book but forgot to delete it from its original spot.

That is too much a over used phrase, but it is correct. My daddy, who is 91 remembers seeing the car. They grew up in far east Texas. He would have been 10 when they were killed. My parents tell me stories of life during the depression. This book portrays it as bad as it was, no food no indoor plumbing. Sleeping four to a bed, dirt floors and the rest of a horrible time. If Hollywood would portrayal Bonnie and Clyde as it as is written this book, truthful how they existed, their life of crime would not sound so glamorous. Maybe, hopefully their prayers were sincere and they made it to heaven. God is a God many chances. I do plan on making a trip east of Shereveport to see the museum. They are so much a part of our folk history, the places in the book; most I have been to or live there. I know exactly where Dove Rd is in Grapevine and HW114. It is amamzing.

This is the best book ever written on these two moronic killers. It is a great read, easy and concise. I couldn't put it down. The author refers to them as Clyde and Bonnie and not the other way around - there is a reason for this. Read this book and I think you will agree with me. They were not two sweet, young, kids trying just to survive the depression, So did my grandparents and my own parents, and they didn't pick up BAR's and shoot inocent people. Favorite line of Cyde's is " We don't want your money, we want the bank's money". It just shows you how stupid these two were. They were killers. It is a fascinating book and leaves you wanting for more. Great job, Jeff Guinn! A
++++++/Carol Stevenson

Jeff Guinn does a good job at researching the tale of Bonne and Clyde and gives a modern account of the duo. My only complaint is that Jeff throws a bit too much of his own belief of what Bonnie and Clyde, like insinuating that Bonnie was a prostitute, when she was a waitress. He throws it in there like "that is what waitresses do", when there is no proof that Bonnie was a hooker. Still it is a good read, but if you are still in need for something to read I suggest the Blanche Barrow Book, John Neal Phillips's "Running with Bonnie and Clyde/the story of Ralph Fults, and the quintessential James R. Knight's "Bonnie and Clyde, a 21'st Century update.

Great retelling of their saga. I couldn't wait to turn the page, even though we all know haw it ends. He did, however, straighten many of the errors and/or embellishments of the movie. I still like both book and movie.

Even though I've always been interested in U.S. crime, especially during the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, for some reason I've never had more than a passing interest in Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. Simply because so much material has been published about this murderous duo, however, I have read a number of books about them. I can state in all honesty that "Go Down Together" has to be the single most in-depth study of these two outlaws written to date. Every crime attributed to this pair is closely examined, evaluated and supported by historical data - official police and/or FBI files, interviews, newspaper clippings, and manuscripts (some of which were unpublished) of criminal associates and family members. This is an extremely accurate, objective narrative of two youths from the wrong side of the tracks who blasted their way into infamy during the early Thirties. Again, I'm not a Bonnie and Clyde buff, but if you are, this book is definitely something you will want to read.

I've had a deep interest in the lives of Bonnie and Clyde ever since I was 10, and I've read many a story about the pair, mostly in crime magazines and other articles over the years. This is the first book written exclusively about the crime duo that I have read, so I'm not an authority on the subject, but I must say this is a riveting, thorough piece of work that not only depicts the life and crimes of B&C, but also the devotion of their respective families and the hardships endured by many Americans during that time. I was impressed with the research by Mr. Gunn and his writing kept me well entertained as well as informed. I recommend Go Down Together to anyone who has an interest in American crime history.

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