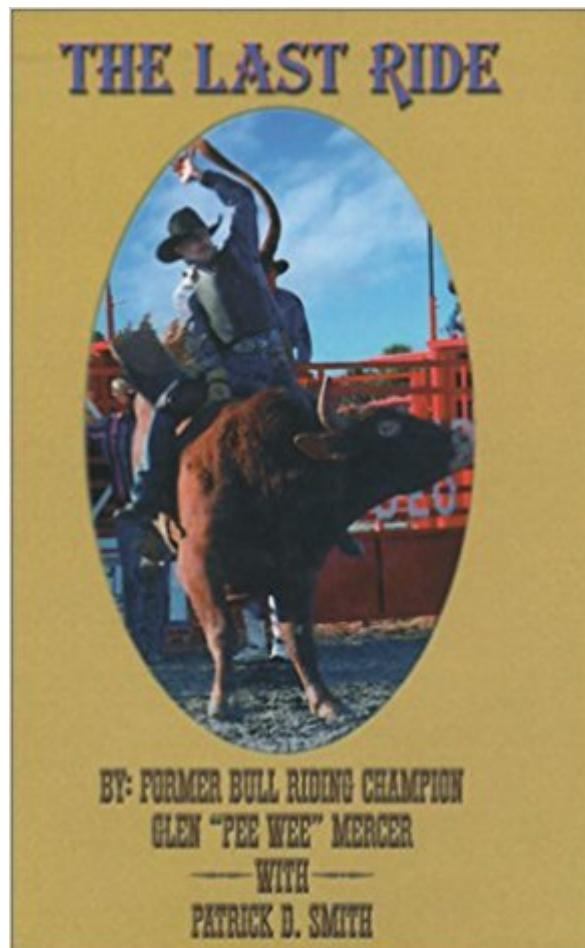


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# The Last Ride



## Synopsis

Take a personal journey with former bull riding champion Glen Pee Wee Mercer, who on November 11, 1995, at the age of 25, suffered an accident while dismounting a bull at the Southeastern Circuit Final at Brighton, Florida. This resulted in a broken neck and severed spinal cord, thus changing his life forever. The Last Ride is the dramatic story of his life both before and after the accident. Patrick Smith met Mercer following a speaking engagement for the Friends of the Library in Williston, where Mercer lived. The two struck up a bond of friendship. Mercer was unable to write but had a colorful life's story to tell. Smith agreed to help Mercer share his story and so they collaborated on the book. The result seven months later was publication of The Last Ride

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This was a funny, touching true life story that I couldn't put down! Definitely a great book for anyone, whether you like rodeo or not. --Marci from Orlando, FL - .comI loved this book. It was one of the only books I have read with such a real life country setting. Not only was this guy a wonderful bullrider but was and is a good person at heart. Being raised around cattle and horses made for a great start for a bullrider. I think this book is very enlightening to the life of a bullrider and how hard they work to become what they are. It takes a very special person to climb on the back of a bull, and try to hang on for 8 seconds. They are faced with life and death every time they nod their head and come out of those chutes. I couldn't put this book down. I would recommend this to anyone. Please take the time to read this book and you will soon appreciate the courage these guys have in taking on a bull. --Leslie from Mims, FL - .comThe night my book arrived I burnt supper because I couldn't

put it down. I found myself up at 2am reading it. I laughed, I cried and I laughed so hard that I cried reading the stories and remembering the people and places from this book. PeeWee, You did a wonderful job, I am so very proud of you. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants a look into the life and character of a cowboy!! Hurry up and write us another one!! --Roper Pope-Cox from Amarillo, TX - .com

Patrick D. Smith was born in D'Lo, Mississippi on October 8, 1927. He lived in Mississippi until 1966 when he moved his family to Merritt Island, Florida. He became very interested in the history and culture of Florida, which resulted in several novels about Florida, including his best known, *A Land Remembered*. Smith is a 1999 inductee into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame, which is the highest and most prestigious cultural honor that can be bestowed upon an individual by the state of Florida. He holds a B.A. degree and a Masters degree in English from the University of Mississippi. Smith is the author of seven novels: *The River Is Home*, *The Beginning*, *Forever Island*, *Angel City*, *Allapattah*, *A Land Remembered*, and *The Seas That Mourn*, and a story collection, *A White Deer and Other Stories*. He is also co-author of the non-fiction book *The Last Ride* and author of the non-fiction book *In Search of The Russian Bear*. He has been nominated three times for the Pulitzer Prize, in 1973 for *Forever Island*, which was a 1974 selection of Reader's Digest Condensed Books both in the English language edition and in all of the worldwide foreign language editions; in 1978 for *Angel City*, which was produced as a Movie of the Week for the CBS television network; and in 1984 for *A Land Remembered*, which was an Editors Choice selection of the New York Times Book Review. Smith's lifetime work was nominated for the 1985 Nobel Prize for Literature. Previous honors include: Tebeau Prize for *A Land Remembered* as the Most Outstanding Historical Novel, Florida Historical Society, 1986; Outstanding Author Award, Council for Florida Libraries, 1986; Communications Achievement Award, Space Coast Writers Guild, 1987; Communications Achievement Award, Toastmasters International, 1987; Environmental Writer's Award, Florida Audubon Society, 1987; FLORIDA TODAY Best Writer Award, 1987, 1990, 1992; Medal of Honor, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, 1988; Order of the South Award, Southern Academy of Letters, Arts and Sciences, 1996; Florida Ambassador of the Arts Award, Florida Department of State, 1996; the first Florida Cracker Heritage Award, presented for outstanding contribution to Florida Cracker pioneer heritage, Florida Cracker Trail Association, 1997; Lifetime Achievement Award, Lee County Reading Festival, Fort Meyers, 2001; Florida Literary Legend Award, Florida Heritage Book Festival, St. Augustine, 2008. In 1990, Florida PBS-TV released a documentary, *VISIONS OF NATURE*, Patrick Smith's Florida, which portrays

his work as a writer and his on-the-site research. In 2007 Panorama Studios released a documentary, Patrick Smith's Florida, A SENSE OF PLACE, that has won several top film awards. In October 1990 Smith received the University of Mississippi's Distinguished Alumni Award and was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. In 1997, the Florida Historical Society created a new annual award, the Patrick D. Smith Florida Literature Award, in his honor. In May 2002 Smith was the recipient of the Florida Historical Society's Fay Schweim Award as the Greatest Living Floridian. The one-time-only award was established to honor the one individual who has contributed the most to Florida in recent history. By an act of the 2006 Florida Legislature, a section of a major highway, SR 520 running from East Merritt Island across the Banana River to Cocoa Beach, was named the Patrick D. Smith Causeway. Secretary of State Sue Cobb was the dedication speaker with Senator Bill Posey acting as emcee. In June 2013, Smith was selected as one of the Great Floridians. Governor Rick Scott and his wife personally came to his house to give him this award. Patrick D. Smith passed away on January 26, 2014.

I'm a little biased here. I went to school with and knew Pee-Wee, personally. So, reading his book was a lot like taking a stroll down memory lane. To me, it was just a rodeo cowboys memoirs. Nothing fancy, just Pee-Wee...the way he was.

Disappointed in this book. Not A Patrick D. Smith book that's for sure. Make sure he is the author only.

I met Pee Wee Mercer when I was a senior in high school and we became very good friends and we traveled the high school rodeo circuit in 1985. Only living 10 miles from each other, we did a lot of things that year. I went on and served my country, while my partner cont. with the rodeo circuit. This book was such an excellent story of a great bullrider and a wonderful person. Rodeo is a tough life and there's many bruises and broken bones along the way and when you start reading it, you discover what it takes to be a professional bullrider. I went to the hospital just after the accident and as I looked at my little buddy, I just couldn't imagine what the future held for him, but I can say that he's taken something awfully and has done what few people could even dream about. Pee Thanks for all the memories and the stories, will be looking forward to another book soon. Your friend Rowland Cortese

PeeWee Mercer took me on a wild ride in his "Last Ride." He had me on so many bulls he wore my

pants out. If you ever dreamed about what it is like to be a professional bullrider, Pee Wee tells it like it is, with all the glamour and romance washed out. You will ride around the circuit racing from city to city for the opportunity to get up on that next bull. The pay stinks, and there is a lot of pain, but for Pee Wee it is the life to which he was born. Pee Wee's last ride is the hook that pulls you into his story. Can you imagine the world in which he found himself after breaking his spinal cord that fateful evening in 1995 when he rode his last bull? His life today is the "hardest" bull he has ever had to ride, yet he continues on with guts and a faith that is an inspiration to all.

I loved this book. It was one of the only books I have read with such a real life country setting. Not only was this guy a wonderful bullrider but was and is a good person at heart. Being raised around cattle and horses made for a great start for a bullrider. I think this book is very enlightening to the life of a bullrider and how hard they work to become what they are. It takes a very special person to climb on the back of a bull, and try to hang on for 8 seconds. They are faced with life and death everytime they nod their head and come out of those chutes. I couldn't put this book down. I would recommend this to anyone. Please take the time to read this book and you will soon appreciate the courage these guys have in taking on a bull.

The night my book arrived I burnt supper because I couldn't put it down. I found myself up at 2am reading it. I laughed, I cried and I laughed so hard that I cried reading the stories and remembering the people and places from this book. PeeWee, You did a wonderful job, I am so very proud of you. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants a look into the life and character of a cowboy!! Hurry up and write us another one!!

I think this is a very good book to read. It is very interesting and keeps you reading until you are finished! It is very heartwarming and a good human interest book. I have read other books which Patrick D. Smith wrote whom co-authored this book, and I enjoy his style of writing. I know Glen (Pee Wee) Mercer, personally and he has more courage than anyone I have ever met!

This was a funny, touching true life story that I couldn't put down! Definitely a great book for anyone, whether you like rodeo or not.

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