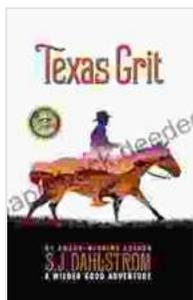


# Texas Grit: The Extraordinary Adventures of Wilder Good, the Legendary Cowboy and Trailblazer



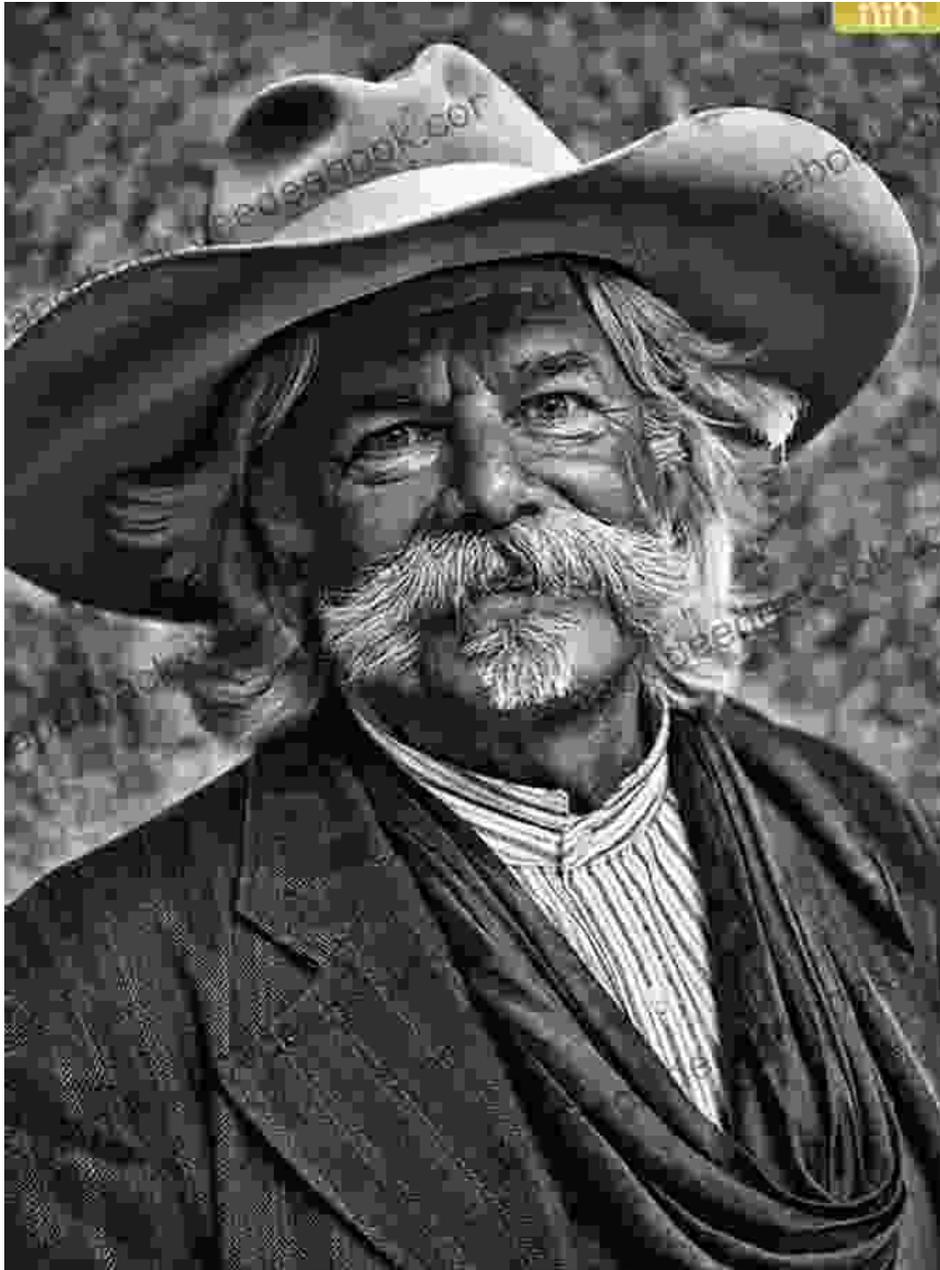
## Texas Grit (The Adventures of Wilder Good #2)

by S. J. Dahlstrom

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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In the annals of Texas history, the name Wilder Good stands tall as a testament to the indomitable spirit that forged the Lone Star State. Born in 1854 on the rugged frontier of Central Texas, Wilder Good's life was an embodiment of adventure, hardship, and unwavering determination. As a cowboy and trailblazer, he faced the challenges of the untamed wilderness,

fought off outlaws, and played a pivotal role in shaping the cattle industry of Texas.

## **Early Life and Cowboy Years**

Wilder Good grew up on his family's ranch in the heart of Texas cattle country. From a young age, he developed a deep love for horses and the open range. By his early teens, he was already a skilled rider and a fearless wrangler. In the 1870s, he began his career as a cowboy, driving cattle along the vast Chisholm Trail to markets in Kansas. These cattle drives were perilous journeys, often fraught with stampeding cattle, treacherous terrain, and encounters with hostile Native American tribes.

## **The Chisholm Trail and Trail Boss**

As Wilder Good's reputation as a skilled cowboy grew, he was entrusted with the responsibility of leading cattle drives as a trail boss. He possessed an uncanny ability to manage the herd, navigate the unforgiving landscape, and maintain discipline among his crew. Under his leadership, cattle drives became more efficient and safer, contributing to the expansion of the cattle industry in Texas.

## **Outlaw Encounters and Texas Ranger**

The lawless frontier of Texas was a breeding ground for outlaws and rustlers. Wilder Good often encountered these desperados and played a role in bringing them to justice. In 1879, he was appointed as a Texas Ranger, tasked with enforcing the law and protecting the settlers from raids and cattle theft. His reputation for bravery and determination earned him respect from both lawmen and outlaws alike.

## **Goodnight-Loving Trail**

In 1866, Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving embarked on a legendary cattle drive known as the Goodnight-Loving Trail. This grueling journey led through treacherous terrain, including the vast and waterless Llano Estacado (Staked Plains). Wilder Good joined this epic drive as a cowboy, providing his invaluable experience and leadership skills. The Goodnight-Loving Trail became a vital route for transporting cattle from the Texas Panhandle to New Mexico and Colorado, opening up new markets for the burgeoning Texas cattle industry.

### **Ranching and Cattle Rustling**

As Wilder Good's career progressed, he established his own ranch in the Palo Duro Canyon region of Texas. However, the challenges of frontier life continued to test his mettle. Cattle rustling was rampant, and Good often had to defend his herds from rustlers and raiders. He formed alliances with neighboring ranchers and worked tirelessly to protect their livelihoods, earning a reputation for steadfastness and unwavering loyalty.

### **Apache Raids and Frontier Justice**

In addition to outlaws and rustlers, Wilder Good and other settlers faced the constant threat of raids by Apache tribes. These raids were bloody and often resulted in the theft of cattle and horses, as well as the loss of life. Good's ranch was repeatedly targeted by Apache raiders, and he played a key role in organizing posses to defend his community.

### **Later Years and Legacy**

As Texas transitioned into the 20th century, Wilder Good continued to be a respected figure in ranching and civic life. He served as a county commissioner and remained active in local affairs. His experiences on the

frontier shaped his character, instilling in him a deep appreciation for the land, a commitment to justice, and an unwavering belief in the spirit of the Texas frontier.

Wilder Good passed away in 1937, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations of Texans. His adventures and contributions to the development of the Lone Star State have become the stuff of legend, embodying the gritty determination and indomitable spirit that forged the character of Texas.

Wilder Good's life was a testament to the transformative power of grit, adventure, and the pursuit of justice. As a cowboy, trailblazer, Texas Ranger, and rancher, he faced countless challenges and played a pivotal role in shaping the history of Texas. His unwavering determination, leadership skills, and deep connection to the land made him a true legend of the Wild West, a symbol of the unyielding spirit that has defined the Lone Star State for generations.



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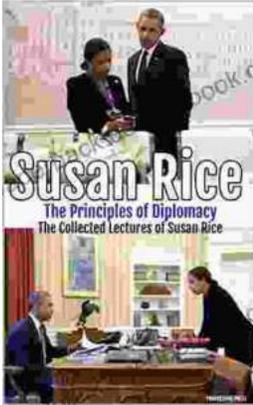
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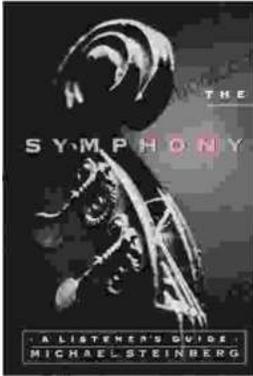
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