



2018

Retribution Rails

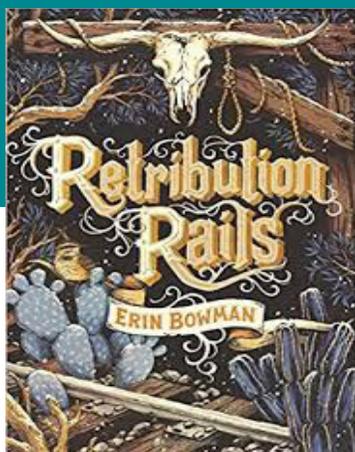
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Book Review

Retribution Rails

Author

Erin Bowman

Illustrator

Reviewer

Meagan Andrus

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Young Adult

Pages

374

Year

2017

Publisher

Houghton Mifflin Har-

ISBN

9780544918887

Reece Murphy is known as the infamous Rose Kid, an outlaw so vicious that he murdered an entire family when he was fifteen and joined up with the Rose Riders—or at least that’s what everyone in Arizona Territory thinks. In reality, Reece knows who killed Luther Rose’s (leader of the Rose Riders) brother a decade earlier, and Rose wants revenge. He forced Reece to join his murdering, plundering band of outlaws and so Reece is stuck in his lawless lifestyle. During a botched train robbery he meets Charlotte Vaughn, an aspiring news reporter with family drama of her own that needs sorting, who gives him a lead as to where Rose’s brother’s killer might be. Grudgingly working together, Reece and Charlotte do find the mysterious killer but soon realize that the gunslinger just wants to be left alone in peace with his growing young family. Amidst shoot-outs, robberies, blackmail, and intrigue, Reece slowly gains the ability to redeem himself from his unwitting crimes and Charlotte learns to see the world as more than just black and white.

This was a unique, excellent book packed full of action, adventure, and excitement. There aren’t many YA Westerns out there, but this one will convert readers into searching for anything Western they can get their hands on. Reece and Charlotte, along with other more minor characters, are interesting and develop well throughout the story. Though they both have their weaknesses, their strengths are much more prominent, and readers will root for this lively pair. The plot is exciting and very edge-of-your-seat, with plenty of twists and turns along the way to keep even reluctant readers engaged. Perhaps most impressive is the author’s immersive storytelling—characters talk like they would have in the Wild West in 1887, historical details are mostly accurate and deliberate, and the setting gives new life to the dusty Arizona Territory. This book is a must-read for anyone who loves a well-written adventure.

*Contains moderate language, mild sexual content (some rape references and one childbirth scene), and severe violence.