



The Outsider

By Penelope Williamson

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The Outsider By Penelope Williamson

Penelope Williamson's classic bestseller blends the best of historical western and Amish romance in a sweeping tale "sure to please any fan of good old-fashioned storytelling" (*Library Journal*).

A daughter of the faith...a stranger with a gun...a forbidden love.

Throughout the years on her Montana homestead, Rachel Yoder had never been afraid—the creed of the Plain People had been her strength. Then the day came when lawless men killed Rachel's husband in an act of blind greed. Now, at her darkest hour, an outsider walks across her meadow and into her life...

Johnny Cain is bloody, near death, and armed to the teeth. A man hardened by his violent past, Cain has never known a woman like Rachel—someone who offers him a chance to heal more than his physical wounds.

Cain's lazy smile and teasing ways steal Rachel's heart and confound her soul. Soon she must choose between all she holds dear—her faith, her family, perhaps her very salvation—and the man they call the Outsider.

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The Outsider By Penelope Williamson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

For her latest western romance, Williamson (*Heart of the West*) adapts the recipe used in the John Wayne film *Angel and the Badman* (itself retooled for Harrison Ford in *Witness*): take one strong-willed, God-fearing Plain woman; add one worldly tough guy with a penchant for firearms; dramatize the difference between redemption and revenge; and stir. Time passes steadily with a "sweet sameness" for the hardworking Plain People in the Montana mountain valley where they raise their sheep, until one bleak late-winter day in 1886, when wounded gunslinger Johnny Cain staggers into widow Rachel Yoder's hay meadow, leaving a trail of bloody footprints. Rachel tends to the handsome stranger, who gradually recovers and seems to bond with Benjo, her stuttering nine-year-old son. Filled with "the smells of fried mush and blood," "the sour stink of sheep" and "the whispered perfume of apple blossoms," *The Outsider* contains plenty of details that nicely evoke the hardships of life on the frontier, along with the simple joys. Dialogue ranges from terse (Plain people aren't big talkers) to corny: "I know I'm nothin' but a worthless chippy, a whore, a tart, sportin' gal and fancy gal," says the town prostitute to the town doctor. The plot is unreservedly melodramatic, as some evil ranchers plot against the Plain people and Johnny and Rachel hem and haw their way toward consummating their forbidden love. But there are enough supporting characters and subplots to keep historical romance fans turning the pages all the way to the bittersweet ending, in which the relative merits of revenge and redemption come to somewhat of a stalemate.

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From Library Journal

Williamson's follow-up to *Heart of the West* (LJ 2/15/95) provides the same realistic sense of place and time that have made her characters and story lines so compelling in the past. Rachel Yoder is a widow with a young son living alone on a struggling sheep ranch. Her husband, Ben, was unjustly hanged for cattle rustling. When a wounded gunman shows up on her doorstep, Rachel takes him in, nurses him back to health, and then hires him to help her through the sheep-shearing season. Rachel's strong religious beliefs and ties to her Plains religious community contribute to her angst as she tries to ignore her growing attraction to Johnny Cain. Her final decision whether to turn her back on family, her heritage, and her God and choose an uncertain future with Johnny is a poignant moment that won't leave many readers unmoved. This is rich, wonderful reading sure to please any fan of good old-fashioned storytelling. Strongly recommended for all public libraries.

-?Margaret Hanes Sterling *Heights P.L., Mich.*

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From [Booklist](#)

Rachel Yoder is a young widow with a son trying to survive on a Montana sheep farm in the 1880s. She still grieves for her husband, murdered by the local cattleman's association, but her faith carries her through. As a member of a religious community called the Plain people, she believes that one must not question God's workings. Her beliefs are about to be challenged when a wounded gunfighter named Johnny Cain stumbles onto the Yoder cabin in the midst of a severe snowstorm. Though Rachel is aware of the dangers inherent in association with any outsider--let alone one as wicked as Cain--she nurses him back to health. While she ministers to his needs, she must endure the criticism of her fellow Plain people and the scorn of her one active suitor. At the same time, a few of the Plain people elders recognize that Cain's skill with a gun could be useful in their ongoing struggle with the cattlemen. The result is a series of confrontations in which Cain and Rachel are both forced to acknowledge their pasts--his desperately evil; hers blindly pious--in order to forge a future together. This very entertaining tale is equal parts *Shane*, *The Angel and the Badman*, and

Friendly Persuasion. There are choice subplots, wonderful secondary characters, and explosive action. Ultimately, though, the novel is, at its core, a carefully drawn love story in which two people from vastly different backgrounds struggle to find a common ground for their future. Western romance at its best from a master of the form and the author of the breakthrough novel *Heart of the West*. Wes Lukowsky

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dorothy Alvarez:

This The Outsider book is just not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This specific The Outsider without we comprehend teach the one who looking at it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry The Outsider can bring whenever you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cellphone. This The Outsider having fine arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Kimberly Morris:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world could share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write with their book. One of them is this The Outsider.

Susan Arnold:

Guide is one of source of expertise. We can add our expertise from it. Not only for students but in addition native or citizen need book to know the revise information of year to year. As we know those ebooks have many advantages. Beside most of us add our knowledge, could also bring us to around the world. By book The Outsider we can get more advantage. Don't one to be creative people? For being creative person must love to read a book. Only choose the best book that suited with your aim. Don't become doubt to change your life with that book The Outsider. You can more inviting than now.

Mary Perez:

Many people said that they feel weary when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt it when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose often the book The Outsider to make your personal reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading talent is developing when you including reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the impression about book and studying especially. It

is to be first opinion for you to like to start a book and study it. Beside that the guide The Outsider can to be your brand-new friend when you're experience alone and confuse in what must you're doing of that time.

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