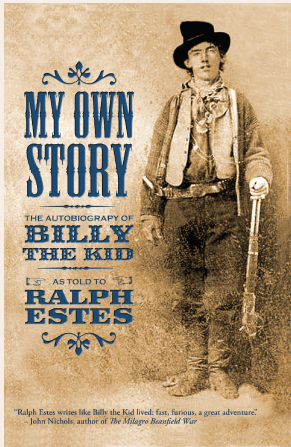


My Own Story: The Autobiography of Billy the Kid as told to Ralph Estes



At last! Billy the Kid's own story - his feelings and fears, his pleasures and regrets. What really happened, not the media and movies' and Garrett's exaggerations. Just as Billy told it to Ralph Estes.

What were his intentions in the Lincoln County War? Why did he and his compadres kill Sheriff Brady? How did he take his betrayal by Governor Lew Wallace?

What did he think his mother would feel about all he had done? How did **Billy** feel?

My Own Story will appeal not only to those who follow Billy the Kid but also to anyone with an interest in the Old West, its legends but especially its reality. A great read, a terrific souvenir, a perfect gift.

What Others Say

Ralph Estes writes like Billy the Kid lived: fast, furious, a great adventure (John Nichols, author of The Milagro Beanfield War)

Authentic in detail and true to history, Estes delivers a fast-paced, engaging and enchanting account of the life of America's favorite outlaw. A must read. (Paul Hutton, Distinguished Prof. of History, Univ. of NM, consultant on Western history to the History Channel and movies)

A convincing and fun read - this book will appeal to history and mystery buffs alike. So when does the movie come out? (Former NM Gov. Bill Richardson, who considered pardoning Billy)

As Mark Twain quipped, If it didn't happen this way, it coulda happened this way, & John Ford added, If it didn't happen this way, it shoulda happened this way (Marshall Trimble, Official Arizona State Historian)

Full of wit, charm, humor, history (Johnny Boggs, past pres Western Writers of America, author Law of the Land: The Trial of Billy the Kid)

Ralph has done something most historians are never able to do: turn a legend into a human being (Dave Stamey, Western singer/songwriter)

My Own Story: The Autobiography of Billy the Kid is available from amazon.com, Baker & Taylor, Barnes and Noble, and Ingram. More information at billythekidautobiography.com

Order *My Own Story: The Autobiography of Billy the Kid* from Barnes & Noble or Amazon

Excerpt #1

Late in the afternoon - this is Monday, February 18 of 1878 - we were on a trail through the hills that would take us to Brewer's and on to Lincoln. Mr. Tunstall, Brewer, and Widenmann were out in front,

Middleton and I were a few hundred yards in the back keeping a lookout in case the posse came up behind us.

Now comes the part that I've gone over a thousand times in my mind.

This so-called posse came swarming over the hill behind us. Middleton and I goosed our ponies and hollered for the others to take cover. Middleton was closest to Mr. Tunstall, and I could hear him calling Tunstall to follow him. But Mr. Tunstall seemed stunned or something. He was jerking his horse back and forth and yelling something like "What, John? What, John?"

The four of us got some trees between us and the gang, then we got over the crest of a hill. We were riding hard when we heard shots. We hunkered down, peered through bushes, and could see Mr. Tunstall on the ground obviously shot. The killers were whooping and laughing.

We were badly outnumbered, so we worked our way through the hills to Lincoln.

That's what my memory tells me happened. But I don't entirely trust my memory. I've gone over this so many times in my mind I worry that I could have painted too good a picture for me, for William Bonney. One side of my head wants to say I couldn't have done anything better, but the other side keeps whispering "Guilty! Guilty! Guilty!"

Excerpt #2

I still miss Momma so much after all these years, she was just a wonderful lady and mother.

I don't imagine Momma would have been too happy with the way things developed after she died, at least up until I was supposedly killed. She raised me to be decent and always do the right thing. I tried to walk the straight and narrow, but I gotta tell you that wasn't so easy for an orphan kid in the West in the 1870s. I would try, but sometimes I would get in with the wrong fellas and just follow them. But now the Lincoln County War, that was different.

When Mr. Tunstall was murdered in cold blood, just for trying to compete in business with Dolan, I believe Momma, would have said, "You boys have got to do something, you've got to fight back." And that's what we were trying to do.