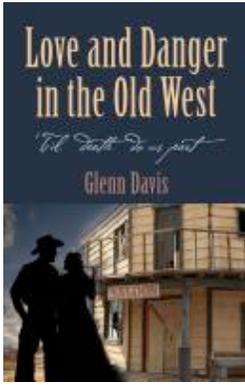


Love and Danger in the Old West

'Til Death Do us part

Glenn Davis





The stories in this book are about women who witnessed some of the most historic events in the old west. These characters include Calamity Jane, Big Nose Kate, Josephine Earp, and others. The lives they led were affected by the old west legends they married. These women found love but lived with anxiety and fear because of the dangerous world in which they lived. Some have been obscured by history while others became historic figures.

Love and Danger in the Old West

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Chapter One: Rivals in Springfield

It was the summer of 1865 and the War Between the States was over. Veterans of the fighting were returning home to pick up where they left off prior to four years of savage fighting. Of course, many of those who left home to join the conflict would not return. Others would return home with missing limbs and other wounds leaving them permanently disabled. Luckily, for the two subjects of this chapter, James Butler Hickok and Davis Tutt, they arrived in Springfield, Missouri after the war having both survived the war and escaped injury. Hickok had been a scout for the U.S. Army and Tutt, originally from Arkansas, served in the Confederate Army.

Springfield, Missouri had a population of three thousand inhabitants in 1865 at the end of the Civil War. The town was a dangerous and sometimes violent place considering there were hard feelings between the former confederate and union soldiers who arrived there. It didn't take a lot of provocation for a killing to occur between men who were hardened to killing. Almost every man in the town remained armed throughout their travels.

A number of veterans from both the Confederate Army and U.S. Army inhabited the community of Springfield, Missouri. Therefore, it would be expected that there would have been some hatred between those individuals. In examining the relationship between Davis Tutt and James Butler Hickok we could safely assume, at this point, being enemies at war would be a contributor of the rivalry between

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the two men. Of course, Tutt was on the losing side of that rebellion.

Hickok and Tutt were both skillful in the use of weapons and took up gambling in Springfield after they were discharged from their service. That is pretty much where the similarities end. For example, Hickok was an abolitionist and a republican. He was originally from Illinois and had served the Union Army. Tutt was a southerner from Arkansas and a democrat. He was a soldier in the Confederate Army. Despite these differences, Hickok and Tutt had been friends.

In the summer of 1865, there would be a source of contention between the two men. Her name was Susannah Moore. During the Civil War Hickok had met Susannah in Arkansas when he was assigned there as a union spy. Susannah had a relationship with Hickok that ended when the war ended. When the war ended, Hickok moved to Springfield and shortly after Susannah arrived there too. Perhaps Susannah wished to rekindle her relationship with Hickok. Unfortunately for her, Hickok was not interested in a reunion. With that rejection, Susannah started a relationship with a willing Davis Tutt. Was Susannah trying to make Hickok jealous? If not, was Tutt trying to upset his rival? It's interesting that Hickok, in turn, began a relationship with Tutt's sister Lottie. The fact that Lottie Tutt took up with a veteran of the Union caused upset to both Davis Tutt and Tutt's mother.

Both Tutt and Hickok had taken up gambling as a vocation and were known to frequent the same gambling houses. By this time, Hickok and Tutt both had a profound dislike for one another. In fact, it would be safe to say the two were archenemies. To that extent, Hickok would not participate

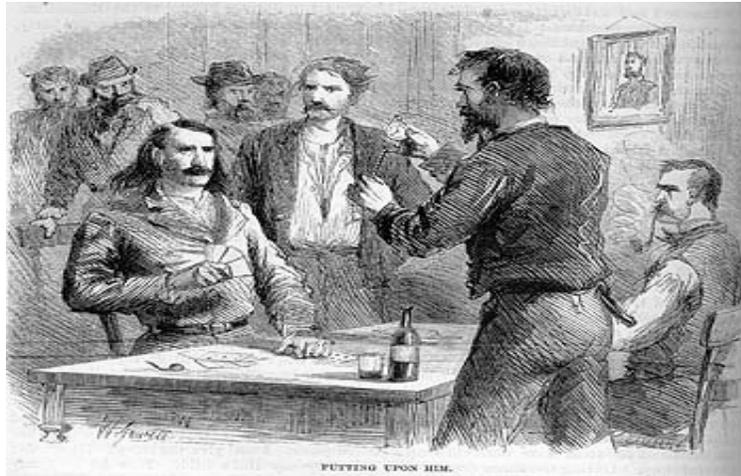
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in any card game that included Tutt. In response, Tutt would bank roll card players playing against Hickok and gave them advice in an effort to bankrupt Hickok.

The conflicts between Hickok and Tutt erupted when, during a card game, Tutt was there to support one of the men playing against Hickok. Tutt supplied both money to stake the player and advice on how to play his cards. The scheme to bankrupt Hickok was unsuccessful. All things escalated when Hickok was playing poker at the Lyon House Hotel (currently the Old Southern Hotel) and was having a winning night. Hickok was ahead by two hundred dollars which would be approximately three thousand dollars today. The money won by Hickok came from the funds provided by Tutt and he was angry about his losses. In an effort to save face, Tutt demanded payment of forty dollars from Hickok that was an unpaid debt from a horse trade. Hickok pulled the forty dollars from his winnings and promptly paid Tutt. Next, Tutt demanded he be paid thirty-five dollars as payment for money owed to him from a previous poker game. "I think you are wrong, Dave," said Hickok. "It's only twenty-five dollars. I have a memorandum in my pocket." Although Hickok acknowledged that there was an unpaid poker game debt he did not agree with the amount Tutt stated he was owed. That angered Tutt and in the presence of a number of his friends decided to grab Hickok's gold pocket watch from the card table. Tutt was going to keep the watch until the thirty-five dollar debt was paid. Hickok was shocked that Tutt would do this but he would not resort to violence at that moment. This was probably a wise decision considering Tutt had a number of friends present who were armed. Hickok ordered Tutt to put the watch back on the table. Without an answer, Tutt would leave the Lyon House

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Hotel taking the watch with him. Before Tutt departed, Hickok warned him not to wear the watch.



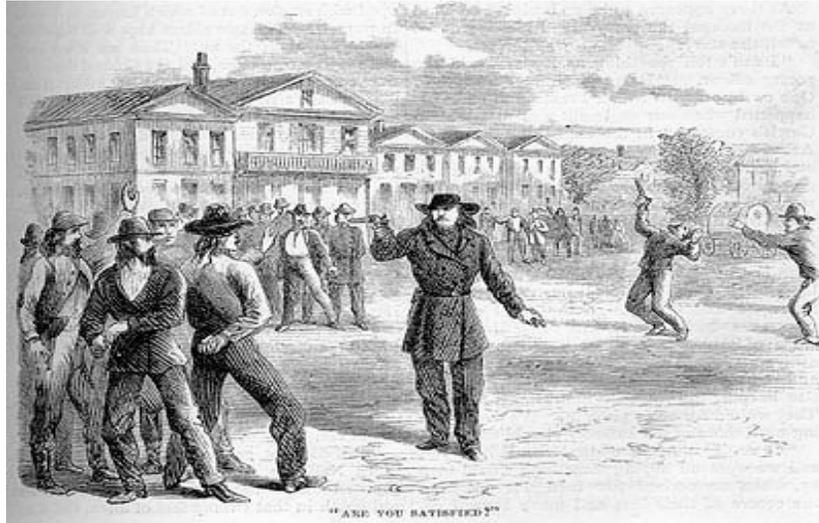
Hickok sitting on left confronted by Dave Tutt standing and facing Hickok – Harpers Monthly Magazine – Feb. 1867

Tutt had publicly humiliated Hickok by demanding collateral for an unpaid debt. The allegation that a professional gambler, like Hickok, would not pay his gambling debt was a serious accusation. It was so serious that it could have consequences for Hickok's ability to earn an income and make a living. Tutt began bragging about taking Hickok's watch to all of his friends. Further, Tutt's friends would mock Hickok for days after his pocket watch was taken. They would mock him as a group in hopes that Hickok would draw his gun and they would cut him down as a group. Tutt's friends told Hickok that Tutt was going to wear his new gold watch on the town square the following day. Hickok replied, "He shouldn't come across that square unless dead men can walk."—When this warning was received, Tutt had a choice to make. He could

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either heed the warning and be perceived as cowardly or he could ignore the warning and make his appearance on the town square. Tutt knew if he did not show he would need to leave Springfield because there would be a backlash directed at him. So, on Friday, July 21, 1865 at approximately 6:00 p.m., Tutt appeared armed at the town square wearing Hickok's prized gold watch around his waist. Shortly thereafter word had gotten back to Hickok that Tutt was on the Springfield square. When Tutt spotted Hickok standing on the opposite end of the town square he began to walk towards him. Hickok seeing Tutt was approaching gave another warning not to come any closer but Tutt again failed to heed his warning. When Hickok realized that Tutt wasn't going to keep his distance he pulled his pistol. There has been disagreement on who fired their weapon first. However, an eyewitness at the scene, Albert Barnitz, said the two men fired simultaneously from a distance of approximately seventy five to one hundred feet. Tutt's shot missed but Hickok's shot hit Tutt in the heart killing him instantly. Tutt pitched forward after being hit and was dead before his body hit the street. Immediately after firing the fatal shot, Hickok whirled around and faced a crowd of Tutt's friends who were angrily standing behind him. Some of Tutt's friends had unholstered their firearms. Hickok, while aiming his Navy Colt, calmly directed the crowd to return their firearms to their holsters or there would be "more dead men in the square." No one present at the scene of the Tutt killing was interested in testing Hickok any further. Everyone holstered their pistols without delay.

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Hickok standing in town square after killing Tutt
Harpers Monthly Magazine – Feb. 1867

The day after the killing of Davis Tutt a warrant was issued on Saturday, July 22, 1865 for the arrest of William Haycocke, which was the alias Hickok had been using in Springfield, on the charge of murder. On Sunday, July 23, 1865, two days after the shooting, the warrant was executed and Hickok was taken into custody. At the arraignment, Hickok entered a plea of not guilty and the records were amended to reflect his actual name, James B. Hickok. At first bail had been denied. However, upon examination of the circumstances the charge was reduced to manslaughter. With the reduced charge, the court set bail at two thousand dollars. By 2012's standards, this amount would have been in excess of thirty thousand dollars.

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The *Missouri Weekly Patriot* published the following article on the Davis Tutt shooting on July 27, 1865:

“David Tutt, of Yellville, Arkansas, was shot on the public square, at 6 o'clock on Friday last, by James B. Hickok, better known in Southwest Missouri as "Wild Bill." The difficulty occurred from a game of cards. Hickok is a native of Homer, Lasalle County, Illinois, and is about twenty-six years of age. He has been engaged since his sixteenth year, with the exception of about two years, with Russell, Majors & Waddill, in Government service, as scout, guide, or with exploring parties, and has rendered most efficient and signal service to the Union cause, as numerous acknowledgments from the different commanding officers with whom he has served will testify.”

The trial commenced on Thursday, August 3, 1865 and the court heard three days of arguments and witness testimony. In all, a total of twenty-two witnesses would testify. The prosecutor was Robert W. Fyan and John S. Phelps, the former governor of Arkansas, represented Hickok. The Honorable Sempronius Boyd presided over the trial. Hickok's lawyer argued that his client acted in self-defense. The Missouri state law at that time would not allow a self-defense plea because the incident came under the law pertaining to mutual combat. The statute on this is as follows:

"The defendant cannot set up justification that he acted in self-defense if he was willing to engage in a fight with deceased. To be entitled to acquittal on the ground of self-defense, he must have been anxious to avoid a conflict, and must have used all reasonable means to

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avoid it. If the deceased and defendant engaged in a fight or conflict willingly on the part of each, and the defendant killed the deceased, he is guilty of the offense charged, although the deceased may have fired the first shot."

After the twenty-two witnesses had concluded their testimony the primary issue was to determine who had fired first. Apparently, only four witnesses could state that they actually watched the shootout. Two of the four witnesses testified that both men had fired. One witness stated that Tutt never got off a shot but the gun used by Tutt did show that one round had been discharged. The other eighteen witnesses testified they did not see the fight but said they only heard one shot being fired.

Before the jury entered into deliberation Judge Boyd instructed them that they would need to come to one of two conclusions in reaching their verdict. First, as far as the law is concerned a conviction for manslaughter would be correct. Second, the Judge advised the twelve jurors that they could consider the unwritten law of the "fair fight doctrine" and acquit the defendant. This action is known as jury nullification which allows the jury the leeway of coming to a finding other than what the law states, as follows:

"That when danger is threatened and impending a man is not compelled to stand with his arms folded until it is too late to offer successful resistance & if the jury believe from the evidence that Tutt was a fighting character & a dangerous man & that Deft was aware such was his character & that Tutt at the time he was shot by the Deft was advancing on him with a drawn pistol & that Tutt

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had previously made threats of personal injury to Deft ...
& that Deft shot Tutt to prevent the threatened impending
injury [then] the jury will acquit"

The jury deliberated for a couple hours before reaching their verdict and considered that Tutt was the person who set the wheels in motion by taking the defendants watch and refused to return it. Additionally, two witnesses testified that Tutt was the first to reach for his gun and Hickok gave Tutt several chances to avoid a fight rather than shooting him at the time his watch was stolen.

In reviewing the evidence the jury considered the testimony of Eli Armstrong, John Orr and Oliver Scott, that Hickok met Tutt at the town square. Tutt was now demanding \$45 but Hickok said that the amount owed was \$25 and he would not pay more than that. It was just a few minutes before 6 p.m. Hickok was observed walking toward the square from the south with his revolver in hand. Once Hickok was observed the people on the street began to scurry for shelter from what they believed would be the impending shootout. Hickok saw Tutt standing in the northwestern part of the square and from a distance of approximately seventy-five yards Hickok stopped. According to the witnesses, Hickok called out "Dave, here I am." Hickok then cocked his revolver and carefully placed it in its holster. Next, Hickok gave Tutt another warning, "Don't you come across here with that watch." Tutt remained silent standing with his hand on his gun. According to witnesses, both Hickok and Tutt faced each other sideways. Then Tutt reached for his gun. Next Hickok drew his gun and placed it on his opposite forearm. The two men fired simultaneously with Tutt missing his mark. Hickok's bullet struck Tutt in the chest at

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which Tutt cried “Boys, I’m killed.” Tutt then fell dead on the street. Some say Tutt was shot in the heart.

The trial ended with Hickok being found not guilty as charged. There were those in the community who disagreed with the verdict. The critics of the verdict believed that Hickok was guilty of manslaughter because he was not anxious to avoid the duel. This fact was evident in the following press release at the time:

The *Missouri Weekly Patriot* published the following article on Hickok’s killing of Tutt on August 10, 1865:

“The trial of William Hickok for the killing of Davis Tutt, in the streets in this city week before last, was concluded on Saturday last, by a verdict of not guilty, rendered by the jury in about ten minutes after they retired to the jury room. The general dissatisfaction felt by the citizens of this place with the verdict in no way attaches to our able and efficient Circuit Attorney, nor to the Court. It is universally conceded that the prosecution was conducted in an able, efficient and vigorous manner.”

On September 13, 1865 Colonel George Nichols, a writer for Harper’s Magazine, interviewed Hickok. This interview would be the first of a series in which the handle “Wild Bill” was attached to Hickok’s name. The article was controversial and was rebutted particularly on the claim that Wild Bill Hickok had killed hundreds of men. In terms of men killed, Hickok was known to have personally killed five men of which one was an accident.

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The Harpers Monthly Magazine Version – February 1867 published the following article regarding the shootout between Hickok and Tutt using the dialect of that location in the text as follows:

“The main feature of the story of the duel was told me by Captain Honesty, who was unprejudiced, if it is possible to find an unbiased mind in a town of 3000 people after a fight has taken place. I will give the story in his words: "They say Bill's wild. Now he isn't any sich thing. I've known him gong on ter ten year, and he's as civil a disposed person as you'll find he-e-arabouts. But he won't be put upon. I'll tell yer how it happened. But come inter the office; that's a good many round hy'ar as sides with Tutt--the man that's shot. But I tell yer 'twas a fair fight. Take some whisky? No! Well, I will, if yer'l excuse me.

You see, continued the Captain, setting the empty glass on the table in an emphatic way, Bill was up in his room a -playing seven-up, or four-hand, or some of them pesky games. Bill refused ter play with Tutt, who was a professional gambler. Yer see, Bill was a scout on our side durin the war, and Tutt was a reb scout. Bill had killed Dave Tutt's mate, and, atween one thing and other, there war an onusual hard feelin atwixt 'em.

Ever sin Dave come back he had tried to pick a row with Bill; so Bill wouldn't play cards with him anymore. But Dave stood over the man who was gambling with Bill and lent the feller money. Bill won bout two hundred dollars, which made Tutt spiteful mad. Bime-by he says to Bill:

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'Bill, you've got plenty of money--pay me that forty dollars yer owe me in that horse trade.' And Bill paid him. Then he said: "'Yer owe me thirty-five dollars more; yer lost it playing with me t'other night.' Dave's style was right provoking; but Bill answered him perfectly gentlemanly: "'I think yer wrong, Dave. It's only twenty-five dollars. I have a memorandum of it in my pocket down stairs. Ef it's thirty-five dollars I'll give it yer.'

Now Bill's watch was lying on the table. Dave took up the watch, put it in his pocket, and said: 'I'll keep this yere watch till yer pay me that thirty-five dollars. This made Bill shooting mad; fur, don't yer see, Colonel, it was a-doubting his honor like, so he got up and looked Dave in the eyes, and said to him: 'I don't want ter make a row in this house. It's a decent house, and I don't want ter injure the keeper. You'd better put that watch back on the table.'

But Dave grinned at Bill mighty ugly, and walked off with the watch, and kept it several days. All this time Dave's friends were spurring Bill on ter fight; there was no end ter the talk. They blackguarded him in an underhand sort of a way, and tried ter get up a scrimmage, and then they thought they could lay him out. Yer see Bill has enemies all about. He's settled the accounts of a heap of men who lived round here. This is about the only place in Missouri whar a reb can come back and live, and ter tell yer the truth, Colonel --" and the Captain, with an involuntary movement, hitched up his revolver-belt, as he said, with expressive significance, "they don't stay long round here!

Well, as I was saying these rebs don't like ter see a man walking round town who they knew in the reb army as one of their men, who they now know was on our side, all the time he

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was sending us information, sometimes from Pap Price's own headquarters. But they couldn't provoke Bill inter a row, for he's afeared of hissel when he gits awful mad; and he allers left his shootin irons in his room when he went out. One day these cusses drew their pistols on him and dared him to fight, and they told him that Tutt was a-goin ter pack that watch across the squar next day at noon.

I heard of this, for everybody was talking about it on the street, and so I went after Bill and found him in his room cleaning and greasing and loading his revolvers. 'Now, Bill,' says I, 'you're goin to get inter a fight.' 'Don't you bother yerself, Captain,' says he. 'It's not the first time I have been in a fight; and these d---d hounds have put on me long enough. You don't want me ter give up my honor, do yer?' 'No, Bill,' says I, 'yer must keep yer honor.'

Next day, about noon, Bill went down on the squar. He had said that Dave Tutt shouldn't pack that watch across the squar unless dead men could walk. When Bill got onter the squar he found a crowd stanin in the corner of the street by which he entered the squar, which is from the south, yer know. In this crowd he saw a lot of Tutt's friends; some were cousins of his'n, just back from the reb army; and they jeered him, and boasted that Dave was a-goin to pack that watch across the squar as he promised.

Then Bill saw Tutt stanin near the court-house, which yer remember is on the west side, so that the crowd war behind Bill. Just then Tutt, who war alone, started from the court-house and walked out into the squar, and Bill moved away from the crowd toward the west side of the squar. Bout fifteen paces brought them opposite to each other, and about fifty yards apart. Tutt

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then showed his pistol. Bill had kept a sharp eye on him, and before Tutt could pint it Bill had hi'sn out.

At that moment you could have heard a pin drop in that squar. Both Tutt and Bill fired, but one discharge followed the other so quick that it's hard to say which went off first. Tutt was a famous shot, but he missed this time; the ball from his pistol went over Bill's head. The instant Bill fired, without waitin ter see ef he had hit Tutt, he wheeled on his heels and pointed his pistol at Tutt's friends, who had already drawn their weapons.

Aren't yer satisfied, gentlemen?' cried Bill, as cool as an alligator. 'Put up your shootin-irons or there'll be more dead men here.' And they put 'em up, and said it war a far fight." "What became of Tutt?" I asked of the Captain, who had stopped at this point of his story and was very deliberately engaged in refilling his empty glass.

Oh! Dave? He was as plucky a feller as ever drew trigger; but Lord bless yer! it was no use. Bill never shoots twice at the same man, and his ball went through Dave's heart. He stood stock-still for a second or two, then raised his arm as if ter fire again, then he swayed a little, staggered three or four steps, and then fell dead.

Bill and his friends wanted ter have the thing done regular, so we went up ter the Justice, and Bill delivered him self up. A jury was drawn; Bill was tried and cleared the next day. It was proved that it was a case of self-defense. Don't yer see, Colonel?

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I answered that I was afraid that I did not see that point very clearly. 'Well, well!' he replied, with an air of compassion, 'you haven't drunk any whisky, that's what's the matter with yer.' And then, putting his hand on my shoulder with a half-mysterious half-conscious look in his face, he muttered, in a whisper: 'The fact is, that was an undercurrent of a woman in that fight!'

After the trial had concluded, Hickok decided to run for political office in Springfield. He aspired to become elected as City Marshal to begin a career in law enforcement. There were five candidates in this election of September 1865. Although Hickok would not win the election, he did place second in the field of five. Soon afterward Hickok would leave Springfield and would continue to make history in the old west.

The Hickok-Tutt shootout was the earliest recorded of its kind. The drama of two men openly facing each other on a public street, each pulling their guns, with the fastest and most accurate shot becoming the victor. This shootout would become the standard for scores of writers, movies, and TV shows portraying this type of combat or the typical kind of shootout in the west. This could not have been further from reality. In fact, this face-to-face standoff in the street was actually the rarest type of event of its kind.

In the end the root of the tension between James Butler Hickok and Davis Tutt was none other than a rivalry for the affections of Susannah Moore. Every other personal or political issue to follow between the two men simply escalated their differences. Tragically, love triangles sometimes have a way of ending that way.

Chapter Three: The Loss of a Lifetime

It was 1875 and a young twenty-year-old beauty named Louisa “Lou” Houston met the love of her life in Dodge City, Kansas. He was twenty-four year old Morgan Earp, a Deputy City Marshal. Morgan had been appointed by City Marshal Charlie Bassett to serve on the police force. Morgan was strong, confident, and handsome; and made of the same courage possessed by his older brothers Virgil and Wyatt. Morgan also had an undeserved reputation for having a short temper. In reality, Morgan kept his cool in a crisis and was not prone to losing his temper at all. These attributes of Morgan undoubtedly contributed to Lou’s attraction to him. The couple was married in Dodge City and, by all accounts, Morgan’s bride had background of prostitution in a brothel as was true with some of the wives of the other Earp brothers. Lou was truly a lady and was always treated as one by her husband.

Morgan and Lou made their home in Dodge City and Morgan continued to serve as a deputy city marshal until late 1877. At that time, Morgan and Lou packed up and left for Butte, Montana where they remained until March 1880. While in Butte, Morgan continued his law enforcement career.

In March of 1880, Morgan and Lou Earp left Butte, Montana to join his brothers in Tombstone, Arizona to seek their fortunes in this silver mining boomtown. Upon arrival, Morgan went to work for Wells Fargo & Co. as a shotgun messenger. Later, when Virgil Earp was appointed City Marshal after the death of Marshal Fred White in October 1880, Morgan went to work for Virgil as his deputy. In January

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1882 after the assassination attempt on Virgil Earp, Morgan was deputized a U.S. Deputy Marshal by Wyatt Earp.

In February, 1882 Morgan Earp felt that Tombstone was too dangerous a place for his wife. His brother Virgil Earp had an attempt made on his life in the previous December and was still recovering from serious wounds. In addition, the Earp brothers knew that they would be ambushed when and if their enemies had an opportunity to strike. The so-called cowboy faction was out to avenge the deaths of Billy Clanton, and Frank and Tom McLaury who were killed when they made the fatal mistake of standing to fight the Earp brothers at the OK Corral. Morgan may have believed that his wife would be at risk, either directly or indirectly, when the assassins might strike. So, Lou Earp was sent to Colton, California to live with his parents. Although Lou certainly would have wanted Morgan to accompany her, and not be separated from each other, Morgan knew his place. It was not in the Earp's nature to allow the cowboy faction to think that they would run away from them like cowards. Morgan would support his brother Wyatt Earp. Morgan also felt compelled to stay to help guard his brother Virgil until such time that he would be able to adequately defend himself or be able to travel.

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Louisa Houston Earp
Circa 1880

On March 18, 1882, Morgan attended a play at Schefflin Hall in Tombstone, Arizona. The play was entitled *Stolen Kisses* which was presented by William Horace Lingard and Company. Doc Holliday and Dan Tipton accompanied Morgan. The three attended the show despite warnings from both Wyatt Earp and Benjamin Goodrich who said, “you fellows will catch it tonight if you don’t look out.” At approximately 10:00 p.m. when the show had concluded Morgan and fellow U.S. Deputy Marshal Dan Tipton headed for the Campbell & Hatch Billiard Parlor on Fourth and Allen Streets to play pool. There was no wife waiting for him to come home so Morgan would play some pool with his friend Bob Hatch, the co-owner of the establishment. While on the way to Hatch’s Morgan saw his sister-in-law Allie Earp who was out shopping for her and Virgil, and Morgan escorted Allie back to the Cosmopolitan Hotel before stopping at Hatch’s. As for Doc Holliday, he went

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back to his room at the Cosmopolitan Hotel to retire for the evening. Because there had been threats received that same day, Morgan was also accompanied to Hatch's by fellow U. S. Deputy Marshals Sherman McMasters and his brother Wyatt Earp. Dan, Sherman, and Wyatt took seats to be spectators of the game. The game was between Morgan and Bob Hatch, and the two played on a pool table that was located in the rear of the saloon.

The *Tombstone Epitaph* in Tombstone, Arizona published the following article on the assassination of Morgan Earp on March 20, 1882:

The Deadly Bullet

The Assassin at Last Successful in His Devilish Mission
Morgan Earp Shot Down and Killed While Playing Billiards

“At 10:00 Saturday night while engaged in playing a game of billiards in Campbell & Hatch's Billiard parlor, on Allen between Fourth and Fifth, Morgan Earp was shot through the body by an unknown assassin. At the time the shot was fired he was playing a game with Bob Hatch, one of the proprietors of the house and was standing with his back to the glass door in the rear of the room that opens out upon the alley that leads straight through the block along the west side of A.D. Otis & Co.'s store to Fremont Street. This door is the ordinary glass door with four panes in the top in place of panels. The two lower panes are painted, the upper ones being clear. Anyone standing outside can look over the painted glass and see anything going on in the room just as well as though standing in the open door. At the time the shot was fired the deceased must have been standing within ten feet of the door, and the

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assassin standing near enough to see his position, took aim for about the middle of his person, shooting through the upper portion of the whitened glass. The bullet entered the right side of the abdomen, passing through the spinal column, completely shattering it, emerging on the left side, passing the length of the room and lodging in the thigh of Geo.A.B. Berry, who was standing by the stove, inflicting a painful flesh wound. Instantly after the first shot a second was fired through the top of the upper glass which passed across the room and lodged in the wall near the ceiling over the head of Wyatt Earp, who was sitting as a spectator of the game. Morgan fell instantly after the first fire and lived only about one hour. His brother Wyatt, Tipton and McMasters rushed to the side of the wounded man and tenderly picked him up and moved him some ten feet away near the door of the card room, where Drs. Matthews, Goodfellow and Millar, who were called, examined him and, after a brief consultation, pronounced the wound mortal. He was then moved into the card room and placed on the lounge where in a few brief moments he breathed his last, surrounded by his brothers, Wyatt, Virgil, James and Warren with the wives of Virgil and James and a few of his most intimate friends. Notwithstanding the intensity of his mortal agony, not a word of complaint escaped his lips, and all that were heard, except those whispered into the ear of his brother and known only to him were, 'Don't, I can't stand it. This is the last game of pool I'll ever play.' The first part of the sentence being wrung from him by an attempt to place him upon his feet.

The funeral cortege started away from the Cosmopolitan hotel about 12:30 yesterday with the fire bell tolling its solemn peals of 'Earth to earth, dust to dust.'

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Robert S. Hatch
1841-1904

In the previous article, there is the mention of a whispered message by Morgan given to a brother before he died. That brother was Wyatt and what was whispered to him by his brother Morgan was kept secret for many years after his death. Morgan Earp had a fascination with the afterlife and supposedly, Wyatt had interest in this also. What Morgan whispered was “I can’t see a damned thing” referring to the fact that he was having no vision of anything in the after world.

Morgan Earp was prepared for transport to California for burial. He was dressed in a blue suit that was donated by his friend John “Doc” Holliday. Morgan and Doc Holliday had a close relationship and Doc regarded Morgan as if he was his brother too. The day after the shooting, March 19, 1882 was Wyatt Earp’s thirty-fourth birthday. Both Wyatt and his brother James Earp were traveling to Contention with Morgan’s remains. The men were headed for the railroad station in Contention where Morgan’s body would be taken by train to

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Colton, California for burial. James Earp also had a few friends travel with him on the train for safety reasons.



Morgan Earp
Circa 1880

During their trip from Tombstone to Contention, the Coroner Dr. D. M. Mathew was convening an inquest into the death. As part of the inquest, Marietta Duarte appeared and testified about events that occurred at her house shortly after the shooting. Marietta Duarte testified that her husband Pete Spence along with Frank Stilwell, “Indian Charlie” Cruz, Frederick Bode and a half-breed named Fries arrived at her house about an hour after the shooting of Morgan Earp. Marietta testified that she heard those men bragging about shooting Morgan. Apparently, Marietta Duarte was inspired to testify after both she and her mother were beaten at the hands of her husband Pete Spence. Spence had threatened her to keep her quiet about what she knew or she would regret it. Other witnesses testified seeing Frank Stilwell running from the scene. With this compelling evidence, the Coroner’s jury concluded that the prime suspects in the murder of Morgan

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Earp were Pete Spence, Frank Stilwell, Frederick Bode, and Florentino “Indian Charlie” Cruz.

Pete Spence was fearful of reprisals from the Earp brothers so he turned himself in to Cochise County Sheriff John Behan for protective custody. The men implicated in the killing of Morgan Earp were indicted and tried but the charges were dismissed due to lack of evidence. Testimony given by Pete Spence’s wife Marietta was determined to be hearsay evidence. Further, the judge ruled that a wife could not testify against her husband. With no witnesses to the crime and lack of other physical evidence the charges would not stand. It was at this point that Wyatt Earp resolved to take the law into his own hands. He carried out a plan to locate and execute the men responsible for wounding his brother Virgil and killing his baby brother, Morgan.

The following day after Morgan left Tombstone, Monday, March 20, 1882, Virgil and his wife Allie left Tombstone under heavy guard by horse wagon to nearby Contention City. The security escorts included Wyatt and Warren Earp, Doc Holliday, “Turkey Creek” Jack Johnson, and Sherman McMaster. Upon arrival in Contention City the security detail stabled their horses and rented another wagon. Then everyone rode by wagons from Contention City to Benson, Arizona. From Benson the party took a train to Tucson where they would connect with a train to Colton, California.

When Virgil and Allie Earp, along with their bodyguards, arrived at the Tucson train station, Deputy U.S. Marshal J. W. Evans greeted them on the train. The group left the train and had dinner at Porter’s Hotel near the station. Upon finishing their dinner, Virgil and Allie were escorted by Wyatt Earp and

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Doc Holliday. Once back on the train the Earps were alerted by a passenger that men were lying on a flatcar near the engine. Wyatt searched for these men and found Frank Stilwell and Ike Clanton and both men were armed. Before she passed away, Virgil Earp's wife Allie recalled the tension experienced at the Tucson train station. She recalled how Wyatt Earp killed Frank Stillwell on sight when he was discovered on the platform. U.S. Deputy Marshal Wyatt Earp, with assistance from Doc Holliday, shot Frank Stillwell dead and left his corpse riddled with bullets. Allie Earp remembered as the train was starting to leave Tucson that Wyatt Earp was running alongside the train telling Virgil "It's all right, Virge. We got one! One for Morg!" Ike Clanton, once again, would run like the coward he was when those he stalked or antagonized confronted him. He ran away from the fight on Fremont Street near the O.K. Corral and now he ran from the Tucson train station. Virgil Earp was later quoted as saying "one thing is certain, if I had been without an escort they would have killed me."

On March 25, 1882, the *Arizona Daily Star* published the following article regarding the findings of the Frank Stillwell's Coroner's jury:

"Following is the verdict of the Coroner's jury in the case of the assassination of Frank Stillwell, found lying dead north of the Southern Pacific Railroad depot. The deceased was a native of Texas, aged about 27 years; that he came to his death on the 20th day of March, 1882, in the city of Tucson, at 7:15 p.m. of that day, by gunshot wounds inflicted by Wyatt Earp, Warren Earp, Sherman McMasters, J.H. Holliday, and one Johnson." The "Johnson" mentioned in the article was John Johnson who was a member of Wyatt Earp's posse who provided

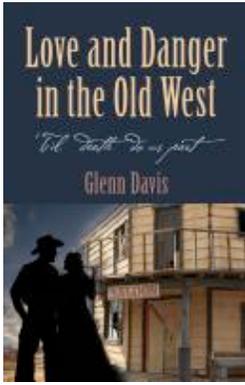
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security for the Earp family as they traveled out of Arizona to safer surroundings.

Morgan Earp was laid to rest at the Old City Cemetery of Colton, California that was near Mount Slover. In 1892, the cemetery was moved and Morgan's body was reburied in the Hermosa Cemetery in Colton. The move occurred when the expansion of mining on Slover Mountain forced the cemetery to close.

Wyatt Earp and his posse hunted for those responsible for killing his beloved younger brother. Wyatt had decided to take the law into his own hands because of such widespread corruption in Cochise County, Arizona. He knew those responsible would not be prosecuted for their crimes. So those that could be located were shot to death in lieu of being arrested for their crimes. Some called this murder, but in every case those shot were armed and a threat to Earp and his posse when they were killed.

Louisa "Lou" Earp would mourn the loss of her Morgan for the rest of her life. With the news of his death and during the funeral, Lou was inconsolable. Although she would remarry some years later those who knew her best believed, that Lou had suffered a terrible loss when Morgan was murdered. Her broken heart never recovered and in the end, she died of a broken heart.



The stories in this book are about women who witnessed some of the most historic events in the old west. These characters include Calamity Jane, Big Nose Kate, Josephine Earp, and others. The lives they led were affected by the old west legends they married. These women found love but lived with anxiety and fear because of the dangerous world in which they lived. Some have been obscured by history while others became historic figures.

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