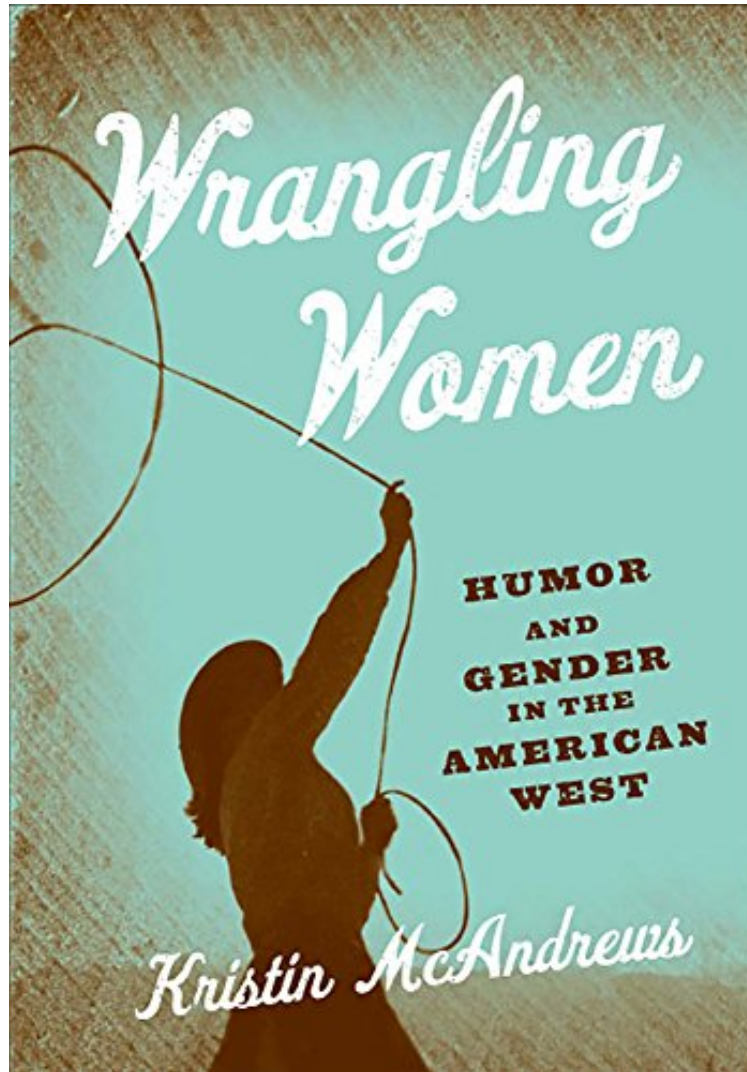


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## Wrangling Women: Humor and Gender in the American West

*Kristin M. McAndrews*

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**Kristin M. McAndrews : Wrangling Women: Humor and Gender in the American West** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wrangling Women: Humor and Gender in the American West:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A lively and entertaining treatise.By Midwest Book ReviewWritten by American West studies specialist Kristen M. McAndrews (Prof. of English, University of Hawai'i at Manoa), Wrangling Women: Humor and Gender in the American West is a unique look at a mountain community of women in Winthrop, Washington who run a western-theme town and work as ranchers, trail guides, horse trainers and packers. Caught in an unusual crux where they have to keep alive gender stereotypes for the sake of a tourist-based economy

yet apply the same levels of authority and expertise as their male counterparts, these resourceful "wrangling women" apply humor and language as useful tools for accomplishing the precarious balancing act. A delightful exploration of gender studies, stereotypes, and human resourcefulness, *Wrangling Women* frequently quotes the women it studies, allowing the reader to partake in both scholarly observation and the visceral feel of being there. A lively and entertaining treatise. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good as historic, biographical record, outside of academic twaddle. By Rhonda Keith. Served my purpose, which was to read the interviews with Shiril Cairns, whom I knew. The interviews were all interesting. The academic presuppositions and jargon were a bore.

The small Methow Valley community of Winthrop, Washington, has reinvented itself as a western-theme town. Winthrop women function as trail guides, wranglers, horse trainers, packers, and ranchers and work in an environment where gender stereotypes must be carefully preserved for the sake of the tourist-based economy. Yet these women often subvert and undermine traditional gender images with humor. How the wrangling women of Winthrop accomplish this challenging balancing act is a fascinating study of women's manipulation of language and gender stereotypes in the modern West. Kristin McAndrews states that she "began to suspect that the reason there was so little scholarship on women's humor was that male researchers didn't understand it, or perhaps they didn't recognize it." To examine the humor of one group of women, she conducted interviews with Winthrop's female wranglers, collecting stories about their lives as workers and as members of their community. For all these women, professional success depends on courage, ingenuity, a sense of humor, and a facility with language—as well as on an ability to perform within the traditional gender stereotypes evoked by their town's Wild west image.

"This volume is a skillful assemblage of theoretical and empirical approaches to a fascinating naturally occurring social experiment. It is well illustrated and well annotated, and has an exhaustive bibliography."

--The Journal of Popular Culture

"This book is an enjoyable read of the contemporary western horsewoman and makes a worthwhile contribution to folklore tradition, gender studies, and human-animal relations."

--Journal of the West

"A delightful exploration of gender studies, stereotypes, and human resourcefulness, *Wrangling Women* frequently quotes the women it studies, allowing the reader to partake in both scholarly observation and the visceral feel of being there. A lively and entertaining treatise."

--The Midwest Book