

## A FASCINATING TRUE STORY

Book Review by Xiomara Antonia Roma

Title: Autobiography of Bat Masterson

Author: M W Ashe

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First of all, let me say that this little book is very short. I don't think it took me more than an hour to read the whole thing. Or perhaps I just lost track of time because the story was so fascinating.

Written in the first person (as the title suggests), this work is saturated with authenticity. I could easily imagine that the words I was reading were actually written by Bat Masterson himself. A fan of historical fiction, I did a little fact-checking as I read, and never once did I find that the author had taken liberties with established facts.

But this is more than the story of one individual's life. It is a more-or-less-complete history of the taming of the west (post Civil War). We have all heard of the gunfight at the OK Corral, the Battle of Little Big Horn, the killing of Billy the Kid, the surrender of Geronimo, and the massacre at Wounded Knee. What I most appreciate about this book is the way it weaves all these events (and others) into a single narrative to show what was going on in different parts of the country at the same time and which events preceded which other events.

I give this novella my highest recommendation.

ROMA LOCUTA EST.