

1: Romance of the Three Kingdoms (video game series) - Wikipedia

Excerpt from The Romance of a Western Boy: The Story of Corse Payton Es, it is a pretty good name, because you never get your mail mixed up with that of any one else.

Overview[edit] Myths from the Three Kingdoms era existed as oral traditions before written compilations. During the succeeding Ming dynasty an interest in plays and novels resulted in further expansions and retelling of the stories. The earliest written work to combine these stories was a pinghua , Sanguozhi Pinghua simplified Chinese: This version combined themes of legend, magic, and morality to appeal to the common people, who did not have education in literary Chinese. Elements of reincarnation and karma were woven into this version of the story. Expansion of the history[edit] Romance of the Three Kingdoms is traditionally attributed to Luo Guanzhong , [5] a playwright who lived sometime between and late Yuan to early Ming period known for compiling historical plays in styles which were prevalent during the Yuan period. The text may well have circulated before either date in handwritten manuscripts. The novel also includes material from Tang dynasty poetic works, Yuan dynasty operas and his own personal interpretation of elements such as virtue and legitimacy. The author combined this historical knowledge with a gift for storytelling to create a rich tapestry of personalities. However, the standard text familiar to general readers is a recension by Mao Lun and his son Mao Zonggang. In the s, during the reign of the Kangxi Emperor in the Qing dynasty , Mao Lun and Mao Zonggang significantly edited the text, fitting it into chapters, and abbreviating the title to Sanguozhi Yanyi. The novel contains numerous subplots. The following consists of a summary of the central plot and some well-known highlights in the novel. Yellow Turban Rebellion and the Ten Attendants[edit] In the final years of the Eastern Han dynasty , treacherous eunuchs and villainous officials deceived the emperor and persecuted good officials. The government gradually became extremely corrupt on all levels, leading to widespread deterioration of the Han Empire. The rebellion was barely suppressed by imperial forces led by the general He Jin. The Ten Attendants , a group of influential court eunuchs, feared that He Jin was growing too powerful, so they lured him into the palace and assassinated him. In the ensuing chaos, Emperor Shao and his younger half-brother, the Prince of Chenliu , disappeared from the palace. Dong Zhuo later deposed Emperor Shao and replaced him with the Prince of Chenliu Emperor Xian , who was merely a figurehead under his control. Dong Zhuo monopolised state power, persecuted his political opponents and oppressed the common people for his personal gain. There were two attempts on his life: Cao Cao escaped from Luoyang, returned to his hometown and sent out a fake imperial edict to various regional officials and warlords, calling them to rise up against Dong Zhuo. The coalition eventually broke up due to poor leadership and conflicting interests among its members. Conflict among the various warlords and nobles[edit] In the meantime, the Han Empire was already disintegrating into civil war as warlords fought for territories and power. Sun Jian found the Imperial Seal in the ruins of Luoyang and secretly kept it for himself. Others such as Cao Cao and Liu Bei , who initially had no titles or land, were also gradually forming their own armies and taking control of territories. Through his conquests, Cao Cao united central and northern China under his control. The territories he conquered served as the foundation of the state of Cao Wei in the future. His eldest son, Sun Ce , delivered the Imperial Seal as a tribute to the rising pretender , Yuan Shu , in exchange for reinforcements. Sun Ce secured himself a state in the rich riverlands of Jiangdong Wu , on which the state of Eastern Wu was founded later. Tragically, Sun Ce also died at the pinnacle of his career from illness under stress of his terrifying encounter with the ghost of Yu Ji , a venerable magician whom he had falsely accused of heresy and executed in jealousy. However, Sun Quan , his younger brother and successor, proved to be a capable and charismatic ruler. With assistance from Zhou Yu , Zhang Zhao and others, Sun Quan inspired hidden talents such as Lu Su to serve him, built up his military forces and maintained stability in Jiangdong. However, their ambitions were not realised as they did not receive due recognition for helping to suppress the Yellow Turban Rebellion and participating in the campaign against Dong Zhuo. When Cao Cao showed signs that he wanted to usurp the throne, Emperor Xian wrote a secret decree in blood to his father-in-law, Dong Cheng , and ordered him to get rid of Cao. However, the plot was leaked out and Cao Cao had Dong Cheng and the others arrested and

executed along with their families. Liu Bei had already left the imperial capital when the plot was exposed. He retreated south to Jing Province, where he found shelter under the governor, Liu Biao. He also built up his forces in preparation for war against Cao Cao. Although Liu Bei managed to repel two attacks by Cao Cao at Xinye, he was eventually forced to flee due to the overwhelming strength of the enemy forces. He led his followers and the civilians on an exodus further south until they reached Jiangxia Commandery. Zhuge Liang remained temporarily in Wu territory to assist Zhou Yu. Zhou Yu felt that Zhuge Liang would become a threat to Sun Quan in the future and attempted to kill him on a few occasions but ultimately failed and ended up having no choice but to cooperate with Zhuge Liang. Traditional site of the Red Cliffs. Sun Quan, unhappy over having gained nothing, sent messengers to ask Liu Bei to "return" the territories to him, but Liu dismissed the messenger each time with a different excuse. He would then hold Liu Bei hostage in exchange for Jing Province. However, the plan failed and the newlywed couple returned to Jing Province safely. Zhou Yu later died in frustration after Zhuge Liang repeatedly foiled his plans to take Jing Province. By then, Liu Bei ruled over a vast stretch of land from Yi Province to southern Jing Province; these territories served as the foundation of the state of Shu Han later. He secretly made peace and allied with Cao Cao against Liu Bei. In desperation, Guan Yu attempted to break out of the siege but failed and was captured in an ambush. Sun Quan had him executed after he refused to surrender. His son and successor, Cao Pi, forced Emperor Xian to abdicate the throne to him and established the state of Cao Wei to replace the Han dynasty. About a year later, Liu Bei declared himself emperor and founded the state of Shu Han as a continuation of the Han dynasty. Liu Bei died in Baidicheng from illness a few months later. On his deathbed, Liu Bei granted Zhuge Liang permission to take the throne if his son and successor, Liu Shan, proved to be an inept ruler. Zhuge Liang firmly refused and swore to remain faithful to the trust Liu Bei had placed in him. However, Zhuge Liang managed to make the five armies retreat without any bloodshed. Zhuge Liang then personally led a southern campaign against the Nanman, defeated them seven times, and won the allegiance of the Nanman king, Meng Huo. After pacifying the south, Zhuge Liang led the Shu army on five military expeditions to attack Wei as part of his mission to restore the Han dynasty. However, his days were numbered because he had been suffering from chronic illness and his condition worsened under stress. He would die of illness at the Battle of Wuzhang Plains while leading a stalemate battle against the Wei general Sima Yi. The Shu emperor Liu Shan also turned out to be an incompetent ruler who trusted corrupt officials. Jiang Wei attempted to restore Shu with the help of Zhong Hui, a Wei general dissatisfied with Sima Zhao, but their plan failed and both of them were killed by Wei soldiers. Sima Yan then established the Jin dynasty to replace the state of Cao Wei. The regents Zhuge Ke and Sun Chen consecutively attempted to usurp the throne but were eventually ousted from power and eliminated in coups. Although stability was temporarily restored in Wu, the last Wu emperor, Sun Hao, turned out to be a tyrant. Wu, the last of the Three Kingdoms, was eventually conquered by the Jin dynasty. The fall of Wu marked the end of the near century-long era of civil strife historically known as the Three Kingdoms period. The novel is thus a return to greater emphasis on history, compared to these dramas. Nonetheless, the description of the social conditions and the logic that the characters use is accurate to the Three Kingdoms period, creating "believable" situations and characters, even if they are not historically accurate. The antagonists, Cao Cao, Sun Quan and their followers, on the other hand, were often denigrated. This suited the political climate in the Ming dynasty, unlike in the Jin dynasty, when Cao Wei was considered the legitimate successor to the Han dynasty. Some non-historical scenes in the novel have become well-known and subsequently became a part of traditional Chinese culture. Thus it has ever been", added by Mao Lun and Mao Zonggang in their recension, [22] [12] epitomise the tragic theme of the novel. One recent critic notes that the novel takes political and moral stands and lets the reader know which of the characters are heroes and which villains, yet the heroes are forced to make a tragic choice between equal values, not merely between good and evil. The heroes know that the end of the empire is ordained by this cosmic cycle of division and unity, yet their choices are moral, based on loyalty, not political. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. June Besides the famous Peach Garden Oath, many Chinese proverbs in use today are derived from the novel: Translation Chinese Interpretation Brothers are like limbs, wives and children are like clothing. Torn clothing can be repaired; how

can broken limbs be mended? Liu Bei "borrows" Jing Province " borrowing without returning. Speak of Cao Cao and Cao Cao arrives. Describes the situation of a person appearing precisely when being spoken about. Three reeking tanners are enough to overcome one Zhuge Liang. Three inferior people can overpower a superior person when they combine their strengths. Losing the lady and having the army crippled. Zhou Yu later led his troops in an attempt to attack Liu Bei but fell into an ambush and suffered a crushing defeat. This saying is now used to describe the situations where a person either makes double losses in a deal or loses on both sides of it. Eastern Wu arranges a false marriage that turns into a real one. The young should not read Water Margin , and the old should not read Three Kingdoms. The latter presents every manner of stratagem and fraud and may tempt older readers to engage in such thinking. The writing style adopted by Romance of the Three Kingdoms was part of the emergence of written vernacular during the Ming period, as part of the so-called "Four Masterworks" si da qishu. As the novel was written in the Ming dynasty , more than 1, years after the era, these stories showed that Buddhism had long been a significant ingredient of the mainstream culture and may not be historically accurate. Guan has since then been respectfully addressed as "Lord Guan" or Guan Gong. Strategies used in battles[edit] Create Something from Nothing: On the flip side, it can be used to convince others that nothing exists, when something does exist. Send the enemy beautiful women to cause disorder at his site.

2: Western Book Lists

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Exciting western historical stories, novels, and articles. This blog site is dedicated to western romance lovers, both readers and authors. As such, I thought it might be fun to pass on a little history of the genre, and how I discovered it. Historical Romance as we know it was born forty years ago with the publication of *The Flame and the Flower* by Kathleen E. After her death in , Ms. However, she was not the first to write western romances. Rosemary Rogers claimed that honor with her first book, *Sweet Savage Love*, published in But where did modern western romance spring from, and what sets it apart from classic westerns? Their books are noted for commentary upon social conditions of their time. Some of their stories do not end happily, as do most modern romances, but they contain strong romantic themes. Westerns are action driven and focus mainly on male characters; women are sometimes little more than props. The plots may be action-packed but they are largely character driven. In many cases the couple must face a level of personal danger, and, upon surmounting their troubles, are able to forge a strong relationship for the future. With him, I watched every western he could find on TV. Later, he started me reading western novels, mainly those of Zane Gray. I remember writing book reports on westerns when I was in junior high. The usual girly books bored me to tears. She was, of course, talking about the beginning of modern romance, in which she played a part. With this revolution came the birth of western romance, and once I discovered this sub-genre, I was hooked. Yet, when he meets cowgirl Lil Crawford, he has no defense against her hidden pain, for it echoes his own sorrows. Wounded by love, Lil guards her bruised heart behind a tough shell. Feuding families stand between the two and a perilous cattle drive pits them against menacing foes as they fight their personal demons. Book Excerpt Two days later the herd crossed paths with a troop of wild mustangs. Lil knew from experience how these nomads enjoyed cutting and scattering a drove of cattle. Before this bunch could cause trouble, she headed them off, yelling and flapping her hat. She chased them back along the dusty swell of longhorns, aided by Alabama and a hand named Rusty Grayson, who rode at left swing and flank today. Fortunately, the remuda was on the far side of the herd, or their own horses would likely run off with the wild ones. Lil signaled the two men to turn back when they neared the end of the herd, while she kept up the chase. From the corner of her eye, she saw another horseman angle toward her as she galloped past the last straggling steers. She glanced over her shoulder, already knowing it was Tye. He waved and grinned, blue eyes twinkling in the sunlight, much like the bluebonnets spread among the prairie grass and other wild flowers along the trail. Suddenly lighthearted, Lil smiled and waved back. Flashing her another impudent grin, he took position on the other side of the horse herd. They pounded onward for a couple of miles. I could use a drink myself. If so, he could forget it. That would be asking for trouble, maybe more than she could handle. But a man can wish, no? Dismounting, they led their horses to the wallow. While the animals drank their fill, she and Tye knelt nearby to drink. Though tepid and a little murky, the water tasted a lot better than trail dust. She, too, longed for a bath. For now, she pulled off her grimy bandanna, rinsed it out and swabbed her throat and neck. Beside her, Tye plunged his head into the water, swished it back and forth vigorously and threw more water over his neck. He came up dripping, shirt half-soaked. Swiping water from his face, he took a breath and slicked back his hair. The wet tendrils immediately sprang back into unruly waves, making Lil long to run her fingers through the glistening black strands. Tye turned his head and caught her staring. Stunned by the instant leap of desire in his eyes, she gazed into their beckoning depths. Her mouth went dry and her heart pounded wildly. She still held the wet bandanna pressed to her throat. Shifting to face her, Tye took the wadded up material from her and tossed it aside. She was mesmerized by his caressing gaze, but when he leaned close, panic set in. That would be playing with fire. His mouth settled on hers, courting her with gentle kisses. When his tongue teased her lips, she parted them with a shudder of longing. A groan rumbled low in his throat as he dipped into her mouth, stroking the tender surfaces within, setting her senses ablaze. Her hands climbed up his muscular chest to the corded column of his neck. He smelled of horse and honest hard work, and that unnamable something that was only Tye. Glorifying in his rugged, manly strength, she pressed closer, fanning the flames.

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