

Henry's debut novel is like his songwriting -- lyrical and fine story telling

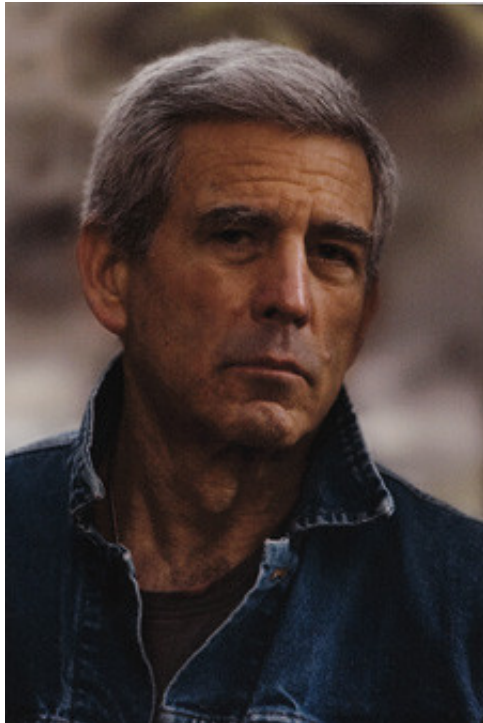
JOE HENRY | JUNE 29, 2011 | BY: JESSE COFFEY

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[Joe Henry \(http://www.joe-henry.com/index.html\)](http://www.joe-henry.com/index.html)

may be a songwriter by trade but he's definitely a master storyteller and he's got a definite hit on his hands with his debut novel, [Lime Creek](#)

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RATING FOR JOE HENRY'S NOVEL, LIME CREEK



(http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1400069416/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=theforeverjoh-20&linkCode=as2&camp=217145&creative=399373&creativeASIN=1400069416).

Henry has written lyrics for some of the industry greats, most notably--well, to me anyway because I'm such a big fan--the late singers [Frank Sinatra](http://www.examiner.com/topic/frank-sinatra) and [John Denver](http://www.examiner.com/topic/john-denver). The two crafted some of [Denver's greatest songs](http://www.joe-henry.com/lyrics.html). And at long last, [Joe Henry](http://www.examiner.com/topic/joe-henry/articles) has taken that gentle, casual style of lyric writing and put it into his prose.

[Lime Creek](http://www.examiner.com/topic/lime-creek/articles) is a series of verbal tableaux that paint the stories of a family as they go through their lives. Henry explores those lives carefully and poetically and the pictures are rich and moving.

We meet Spencer who falls in love at first sight with the vacationing, lovely Elizabeth, telling his mother that he's met the woman that he wants to marry. He follows her back East where she lives and he's attending college. He marries her in true romantic, poor college student form. They come back to Wyoming to create a horse farm and raise three boys--Lonnie, Luke, and Whitney.

We watch the boys grow up and become men, having their own lives and learning about each other and the man they call Father, Papa, Dad.

The relationships are complicated and yet so beautiful and touching. Henry's prose puts you in the time and place. His own experiences of raising horses in Wyoming adds texture to the story. His songwriting ability is what makes this so poetic, from the way Spencer talks to the way he describes the land and the horses.

The pacing is perfect. You never linger in one "place" long enough to get bored. Each "chapter" shows another aspect of the characters. The dialogue is perfect; reading along, you can almost hear each character's speaking voice as they talk to each other. These people are so real, you feel as if you know them personally.

This is a marvelous character piece, with amazing characters and a riveting story line. For a debut novel, Joe Henry's *Lime Creek* is a masterpiece.

You can purchase a copy of [Lime Creek](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1400069416/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=theforeverjoh-20&linkCode=as2&camp=217145&creative=399373&creativeASIN=1400069416) locally from [Joseph-Beth Bookellers](http://www.yelp.com/biz/joseph-beth-bookellers-lexington) in the Lexington Green Mall on Nicholasville Road or [Barnes & Noble](http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/store/2953) in the

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Jesse Coffey, Lexington Literature Examiner

Jesse V Coffey was a Lit/English major at Ohio State University and has been working as a copyeditor, acquisitions editor, and staff writer for several North American publications. Books are her passion and so is writing about them. She's also an author of several publications, which include: The...