



# Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, The Untold Story of an American Legend

*Scott Reynolds Nelson*

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## **Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, The Untold Story of an American Legend** Scott Reynolds Nelson

The ballad "John Henry" is the most recorded folk song in American history and John Henry--the mighty railroad man who could blast through rock faster than a steam drill--is a towering figure in our culture. In *Steel Drivin' Man*, Scott Reynolds Nelson recounts the true story of the man behind the iconic American hero, telling the poignant tale of a young Virginia convict who died working on one of the most dangerous enterprises of the time, the first rail route through the Appalachian Mountains. Using census data, penitentiary reports, and railroad company reports, Nelson reveals how John Henry, victimized by Virginia's notorious Black Codes, was shipped to the infamous Richmond Penitentiary to become prisoner number 497, and was forced to labor on the mile-long Lewis Tunnel for the C&O railroad. Equally important, Nelson masterfully captures the life of the ballad of John Henry, tracing the song's evolution from the first printed score by blues legend W. C. Handy, to Carl Sandburg's use of the ballad to become the first "folk singer," to the upbeat version by Tennessee Ernie Ford. Attractively illustrated with numerous images, *Steel Drivin' Man* offers a marvelous portrait of a beloved folk song--and a true American legend.

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Reading can called head hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specifically book entitled Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, The Untold Story of an American Legend the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe not known for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a guide then become one application form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get prior to. The Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, The Untold Story of an American Legend giving you an additional experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful facts for your better life on this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

#### **Brian Griffith:**

Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, The Untold Story of an American Legend can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to set every word into delight arrangement in writing Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, The Untold Story of an American Legend nevertheless doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into fresh stage of crucial thinking.

#### **Lawrence Caulfield:**

In this period globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended for your requirements is Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, The Untold Story of an American Legend this book consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. That book was represented how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some exploration when he makes this book. That's why this book suitable all of you.

#### **Sean Jones:**

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