



Trouble Shooter

Tex Burns , Louis L'Amour

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Hopalong Cassidy is one of the most enduring and popular heroes in frontier fiction. His legendary exploits in books, movies, and on television have blazed a mythic and unforgettable trail across the American West. Now, in the last of four Hopalong Cassidy novels written by Louis L'Amour, the immortal saddleman rides again—this time into a lonely valley of danger and death.

Hopalong Cassidy has received an urgent message from the dead. Answering an urgent appeal for help from fellow cowpuncher Pete Melford, he rides in only to discover that his old friends has been murdered and the ranch Pete left to his niece, Cindy Blair, had vanished without a trace. Hopalong may have arrived too late to save Pete, but his sense of loyalty and honor demands that he find that cold-blooded killers and return to Cindy what is rightfully hers.

Colonel Justin Tradwar, criminal kingpin of the town of Kachina, is the owner of the sprawling Box T ranch, and he has built his empire with a shrewd and ruthless determination. In search of Pete's killers and Cindy's ranch, Hopalong signs on at the Box T, promising to help get Tradway's wild cattle out of the rattler-infested brush. But in the land of mesquite and black chaparral, Cassidy confronts a mystery as hellish as it is haunting—a bloody trail that leads to the strange and forbidding Babylon plateau, to \$60,000 in stolen gold, and to a showdown with an outlaw who has already cheated death once... and is determined to do it again.

When Clarence E. Mulford—the original Hopalong Cassidy—retired, he chose the young Louis L'Amour to carry on the Hopalong tradition in four classic novels, including *The New York Times* best-sellers **The Rustlers of West Fork**, **The Trail to Seven Pines**, and **The Riders of High Rock**. Long out of print and now published for the first time under the author's own name, *Trouble Shooter* is a vividly authentic tale of the Old West that bears the unmistakable Louis L'Amour brand of swift, sure action, hard-fought justice, and frontier courage. Capturing the unquenchable thirst for adventure, the passions that drove men, and the perils that awaited the, in an untamed new land, this extraordinary early novel gives us Louis L'Amour at the height of his powers—an enduring testament to America's favorite storyteller.

From the Paperback edition.

Trouble Shooter Details

Date : Published (first published 1951)

ISBN :

Author : Tex Burns , Louis L'Amour

Format : Kindle Edition 192 pages

Genre : Westerns, Fiction

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From Reader Review Trouble Shooter for online ebook

James Love says

This is the last Hopalong Cassidy novel by Louis L'Amour (aka Tex Burns). The story has Hoppy riding to help his old friend Pete Melford after receiving a letter from him. It seems Mr. Melford had a ranch that was bequeathed to his daughter... a ranch that has somehow disappeared.

The main reason Mr. L'Amour hated (or maybe was just very disappointed and displeased) with the Hopalong Cassidy novels were that the publisher demanded changes that Louis disagreed with. Louis felt that the publisher was not being true to the characters that Clarence Mulford had created and that they were just trying to get as much money out of the characters during Hopalong Cassidy's run on television. Another of my favorite western author's Zane Grey had similar experiences with Ripley Hitchcock. Both of these authors were just starting out and they were having their ideas questioned by publishers. It makes an author feel stifled creatively when a publisher uses their position to make demands on the author instead of just allowing them to write.

Alyx Tschirhart says

Trouble Shooter is truly a great read. The 2nd and 3rd books in Louis L'Amour's Hopalong Cassidy series really left me disappointed. However, the bookends of this series are great reads. If you're not looking to read the entire series, go ahead and just add The Rustlers of West Fork and Trouble Shooter to your reading list.

Also of note, Audible and other L'Amour references has the order of this series different than as seen on Goodreads.

I read according to the other sources:

1. The Rustlers of West Fork
 2. The Trail to Seven Pines
 3. The Riders of High Rock
 4. Trouble Shooter
-

Cindy says

Pleasant, clean and enjoyable tale of Hopalong Cassidy. Narrated Robert Petkoff. Text 1952 audio 2012.

William Milks says

Always fun to read a good Louis L'Amour.

Priscilla says

I enjoyed its well written and good storyline ?

Stephanie Ricker says

I read Troubleshooter and The Riders of High Rock, both Hopalong Cassidy novels, a couple days apart, so I'll just review them together. This is the last of L'Amour for a while, I promise you. In general I prefer L'Amour's original characters; Hopalong Cassidy was created by another writer, Clarence Mulford, in 1904. He wrote a slew of short stories and 28 novels about Hopalong, and Hollywood made 66 movies featuring the character. L'Amour wrote four Hopalong books under the pen name Tex Burns, but denied that he had done so until his death. Evidently he wrote them for the money (the publisher wanted to cash in on the fame of the character), and he bitterly regretted it and didn't view the books as being truly his. His son made the decision to publish the books under his father's name after reading one and deciding it wasn't half bad. Wonder how L.L. would've felt about that. These two books were enjoyable more because of my life at the moment than because of any literary genius they possess. When you're dealing with a lot of complicated, angst-ridden issues in reality, reading about straight-forward problems you can solve with a six-shooter suddenly becomes terribly appealing.

Chad says

I really enjoyed listening to this audio book on my commute to and from work. Louis L'Amour does an outstanding job with the Hopalong Cassidy character and this is one of those feel good westerns that got Hopalong Cassidy into TV. Amazing that Louis L'Amour denied being the author since he wrote it under the name of Tex Burns, but it is solid L'Amour.

BarbaraW says

Hopalong Cassidy! White horse! What more can you say? Sneaky bad guy continues his wicked ways until....Great vivid descriptions of The West.

Benjamin Thomas says

The fourth and final Hopalong Cassidy novel by Louis L'Amour is another good outing in the form of a traditional western. The title is an appropriate one because not only does Hoppy display excellent quick-draw shooting skills, as expected, but the plot focuses on his penchant for problem solving while rescuing families and former outlaws from the schemes of an evil businessman with a gang of ornery gunfighters and thugs.

As I've mentioned in previous reviews of this 4-book series, Louis L'Amour famously refused to admit ever authoring these four books. They were originally published under the pen name, "Tex Burns" but L'Amour had wanted to write the hero character in the same way the original author and creator, Clarence Mulford had written him; i.e. as a "red-haired, hard-drinking, foul-mouthed, and rather bellicose cowhand" instead of the slick, clean-cut, heroic approach that was portrayed in the movies and on television. Nevertheless, L'Amour honored his contract and produced these four novels. I would love to have read some L'Amour-authored Hoppy novels in that rougher vein, but absent those, these novels are still pretty good westerns, written by a

master from the days of pulp magazines.

Ryan Mishap says

Re-released under L'Amour's (made up) name, these Hopalong Cassidy books were written under a nom de plume. But, they aren't much better than the usual--and who the hell is named Hopalong anyway?

My dad loves all his books and I read over a hundred while staving off the night terrors when growing up.

It is a strange fact about the old west, Indians, and the genocidal take over of the land now called the United States that fiction writing about them is often taken for truth (see Ward Churchill's *Fantasies of the Master Race*). The back of almost every L'Amour novel lauds his knowledge of "how it really was" and the fact that he could've been one of the tough, honorable, lonely fighting men he wrote about. This is complete crap. L'Amour was a seller of fantasy, of lies, and of ideals that white men like to think they possess. He uses Indians simultaneously as "noble warriors" and "bloodthirsty savages" and justifies the take over of their land with the old "their time was passing..." illogic--as if there wasn't an agent behind their passing. Reading one of his novels, one gets the feeling he never did any research required of historical novels. Details are always vague. Little reference is made to historical events, ways of doing things, or period details that would lend credence to his imaginings. His stories could just as easily been set on Mars for all the research that shows through his writing. But Americans are already disposed to believing all this romantic Old West bullshit, so you don't have to try very hard. When a writer taps into our national myths, they don't have to be accurate or true, because most of our national myths are lies already believed.

Roger Scherping says

This is the first western I've ever read. All I knew about westerns was Louis L'Amour, and how ironic that at random I picked up one his four Hopalong Cassidy books. This gave me the opportunity to get introduced to two American legends simultaneously.

Obviously he's a legendary author, but westerns aren't for me. I found the book really lacking in suspense. And I really would have enjoyed more vivid descriptions of the scenery and feeling more like I was there in the heat and the dust.

Ed says

#4 in the Hopalong Cassidy series by author Louis L'Amour, writing as Tex Burns. L'Amour hid these novel under a pseudonym because his publisher demanded a kinder and gentler Hoppy in the TV and movie William E. Boyd persona rather than as the hard-bitten cowhand in the Clarence E. Mulford tradition whose series of novels L'Amour had been picked to continue.

The Hopalong Cassidy Novels #4 - Hopalong Cassidy has received an urgent message from the dead. Answering an urgent appeal for help from fellow cowpuncher Pete Melford, he rides in only to discover that his old friends has been murdered and the ranch Pete left to his niece, Cindy Blair, had vanished without a

trace. Hopalong may have arrived too late to save Pete, but his sense of loyalty and honor demands that he find that cold-blooded killers and return to Cindy what is rightfully hers. Colonel Justin Tradway, criminal kingpin of the town of Kachina, is the owner of the sprawling Box T ranch. Hopalong signs on at the Box T to help get Tradway's wild cattle out of the brush. But in the land of mesquite and black chaparral, Cassidy confronts a mystery - a bloody trail that leads to the strange and forbidding Babylon plateau, to \$60,000 in stolen gold, and to a showdown with an outlaw who has already cheated death once.

Aaron Toponce says

Ah, another great Bill "Hopalong" Cassidy story by Louis L'Amour. I actually found this book better than the previous 3, in that there were a couple situations that were crazy tense, and my heart was beating fast while reading them.

When I look back on this and previous Hopalong books, it's clear that Louis really wanted to get his name known as a great author, even if he was writing under the name of "Tex Burns". He wrote in great character backstories and provided many characters with strong personalities (which he seems to have forgotten how to do later in his career). The situations and worlds he creates are vivid, and many of them tense, leaving you on the edge of your seat. He maintains good conflicts and good pacing to keep you hooked while reading.

Really, my only complaint is the difficulty in knowing where towns and trails are in relation to each other. Being a fantasy reader, most books are provided with maps, so you can get a feeling of where the characters are and where the stories take place. There needs to be something like that for his westerns. That's probably my biggest complaint not only with this book, but all of the books Louis wrote over the years.

Other than that, great read.

Robin Hobb says

A good solid Western, with Hopalong as the scrubbed good guy from the TV series rather than the red-headed, foul-mouthed cowhand of the original books. And now that I know that, I'll try to find one of the original Hop-Along's (so named because he had a pronounced limp in those tales.)

Derek says

This was an excellent book. It was fun, after having listened to a lot of L'Amour books recently, to listen to this book. Not only was it possible to see the progression in his style, but it was fun to read what appears to have been early L'Amour. I had heard the name "Hopalong Cassidy" for years, but never known the source. In many ways, I enjoyed this book more than later novels. I also appreciated the references to Kachina and Sipapu, Hopi words that have been used to identify two arches in Natural Bridges National Monument. This may be one of my favorite L'Amour westerns.
