



Law of the Desert Born

Louis L'Amour

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A PRIZED COLLECTION OF AMERICAN FICTION—FROM AMERICA'S FAVORITE STORYTELLER

This first-rate collection of short stories by the incomparable Louis L'Amour showcases the legendary writer at his very best: spinning a fascinating and wholly authentic set of unforgettable tales. In these extraordinary stories, we meet a man who is forced to defend himself by taking another's life—and must pay for his actions in a most punishing manner; a young thrill-seeker who finally finds a place he can call home, and vows to stay there—regardless of the man who tries to stand in his way; and a drifter who honors a deathbed promise to a stranger by embarking on an unlikely mission of mercy.

Complete with revealing author's notes, the stories in *Law of the Desert Born* are historically precise, and filled with L'Amour's trademark humor and adventure. They are nothing less than modern classics of the American West, told by one of the most beloved storytellers of our time.

From the Paperback edition.

Law of the Desert Born Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 1983)

ISBN :

Author : Louis L'Amour

Format : Kindle Edition 256 pages

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From Reader Review Law of the Desert Born for online ebook

Online Eccentric Librarian says

More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>

Law of the Desert Born is a beautifully illustrated retelling of one of L'Amour's short stories - based more upon an audio version by L'Amour's son Beau and Katherine Nolan. This is the first graphic novelization of a L'Amour novel and the attention to detail really shows.

The story is set in 1887, New Mexico territory. A pervasive drought in an already dry area means there is very little grassland left for cattle. Cattle Rancher Tom Forrester was allowing his cattle to graze on a neighbor's land next to their river - a rare grassy area. But the son of that neighbor (whose father was Forrester's good friend before he died) feels there's not enough grass for his cattle as well. So he puts up a fence and a feud ensues. What starts as a simple act of revenge against the neighbor spirals into two murders. Forrester's cattlemen, Shad Marone and Jesus Lopez, find themselves on opposite sides of a posse. Marone's on the run, Lopez is leading the chase to find him, and the New Mexico countryside is their battleground.

The story changed from the original novel by being more of a study on how no one is wholly good or bad. More back story was given to the characters and quite a few ironies were born subsequently. As a result, the short story is fleshed out and a bit of L'Amour's life is interjected as well since the posse chase was based upon a memoir by L'Amour when he traveled the area as a younger man.

To say the artwork is breathtaking would be an understatement. This is one of the most beautifully illustrated black and white graphic novels I've read in a long time. The panels are clean and the artist/authors were judicious in avoiding making the story too wordy. Surprisingly so considering this came from an audio version.

This is a new way to enjoy L'Amour's work. Not a retread of the short story but a new perspective that is interesting, fresh, full of dimension, but still paying homage to the original.

Received as an arc from the publisher.

Peter Charleston says

Collection of short western stories which proved to be enjoyable reading.

Randy Tramp says

A jailed Indian.
A murdered Judge.

A man on the run.
A Sheriff who tracks em down with the help of the Indian.

I love listening to these Louis L'Amour stories, even better than watching it on television.

If feels like I'm right there on the trail, tracking down a killer, feeling the hot sun, and riding a horse.

John says

Never like short stories but rarely do I not like anything written by Louis L Amour and this was not an exception. 90% of these could have been extended into first rate novels., the notes by the author before each story were enough to give this 4 stars. For so many years, I thought Zane Grey was the only western writer and even he I did not start reading until after the reading of THE RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE at the age of 50. Then I read Louis L Amours autobiography . Have been hooked ever since. I feel as though I know him , as if he it talking to ME when he writes his notes.

Jean Salvas says

Not a big fan of short stories. I feel gypped in getting to know a character and the story moves so fast that I feel like there should be more.

Trebor says

There is something about short stories I really like. They are to the point and quickly describe the characters and setting in a straight forward way. No unnecessary padding, because a good short story writer doesn't need to waste space and time. These stories are classic western tales with the hero of slightly flawed but righteous character overcoming the greedy unscrupulous town or land bully, with cunning guile, sharp fists and fast guns. The classic good over evil with a usually happy ending. Each story a little better than the last. A pleasant and uncomplicated reading voyage. Great tales from a master of the western genre.

Stewart says

I enjoyed this book. This book is a collection of stories, as the title suggests. The stories are short and lack some of the depth of Louis L'Amour's books. However, you can see the seeds of several of his plot points. For example, in Sackett, (Spoiler alert!) Tell escapes by climbing an impossibly high chimney. This happens in no less than 3 of the stories in this book.

The history is also off, of course. This is the romanticized west. The lone gunslinger wanders the west - specifically the southwestern desert - dealing out righteous judgment.

But the stories are good. My understanding is that these short stories were some of his first. They are the archetypes for the novels and movies that were to come.

I enjoyed this collection of stories and recommend them to anyone who is looking for a classic romanticised western.

Darren says

When I got into westerns, the first thing I learned is if you want a great read in the genre, turn to Louis L'Amour. LAW OF THE DESERT BORN is proof of that claim.

This book is a collection of short stories by the author, complete with author notes before each story. Each story is filled with the author's unique view of the West, adventure, humor and authenticity. The stories move quickly and the book can be read in one sitting. The only problem is the book had to end. So, grab your cowboy hat, your six shooter and jump on in.

Chas Andrews says

If you thumbed through the Who's Who of Western writers it wouldn't take you long to come to Louis L'Amour. Like Zane Grey, Elmore Leonard, and others, L'Amour taps into the vein of the Old West and weaves multi-layered tales of originality. Case in point, "Law of the Desert Born," which is about (technically) two men on the run - one is a rancher who shot his competition after the competition decided to rob him of cattle and a half-Mexican, half-Apache man named Lopez who was instrumental in helping steal said cattle and is now part of the search team for the rancher on the run. An interesting story overall with amazing graphic sketching/drawing.

Nicola Mansfield says

I love myself a good western but never seem to read them much anymore. I absolutely loved this atypical form of the classic western. Based on a short story set in the 1880's, the good guy and the bad guy are hard to differentiate. The story starts off with a crime and the Sheriff and his posse going after the men, but quite soon all is not as it seems as the tale is told backwards and justice turns to vengeance. The ending is certainly a wild west ideal of redemption and it leaves the reader to mull over, or debate with others, just who was betrayed the most and who actually was in the wrong. Incredible black and white art with intricately detailed background and emotional close-ups of facial features especially shown in the eyes. A masterpiece both in story and art that complements the mood. Impressive!

An Odd1 says

Reiterates the constant theme of *Passing Through*, the drifter who feels morally obligated, or inspired by clear gray eyes on a tall slim redhead, to administer deeply needed justice.

July 1983, L'Amour refused to sign unauthorized editions, unlike Harry Harrison in *Galactic Dreams* proud autographing illegal underground translations because they trumpeted world-wide reader demand. (Canada copyright 50 years < US 75.) LL included last story to set this frontier law collection equal to fake, and added pre-ambles from personal experience specifying locales, gunslingers, and old bandit tales to surpass.

History channel may be reviving one feud, but L'Amour has the goods.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pleasant...>

<http://www.history.com/shows/hatfield...>

Dedication reads "To my loyal readers, who will know how to read a brand." Quality here is high: girls with spunk or ignored; not a flaw in spelling, grammar, style, plot, flow, or focus. Magazine submissions from 1942-53, most 1949-51 glow with polishing from originals, reason enough to try for legal version. Internet may facilitate copies, fill when real unavailable limited, encourage demand for honest access.

1 Law of the Desert Born - "Wild dangerous men who went into country where nobody else dared venture.. killed and robbed to live" p31 conquered the West, good and bad". After three days on the run, Shad Marone leads pursuit into dry ashy Sink, where Navajos found hidden spring, but following Apaches perished.
(view spoiler)

2 Riding On - Reb Farrell shoots distant rustler, finds own honest father Jim dead. Fired by Nathan Embree, father of sweetheart Laura, Reb follows clue of pa's missing rifle. Wounded Lon fingers Joe Banta.
(view spoiler)

3 The Black Rock Coffin Makers - Jim Gatlin, new Tucker arrival mistaken for Jim Walker, takes on missing farmer's claim against town bigshot Wing Cary. Tall pretty Lisa has rounded slim figure, wide clear gray eyes p68. L'Amour has a strong preference for gray eyes.
(view spoiler)

4 Desert Death Song - Handsome Nat Bodine framed for holdup murder by rich Pete Daley, jealous over quiet pretty Mary Callahan, has to hide in rugged country.
(view spoiler)

5 Ride, You Tonto Raiders! - Matt Mathurin (from Latin, saintly) Sabre didn't want to draw in response to drunk foolish Billy Curtin, so agreed to boy's dying request to carry thousands home to wife Jenny, slender "tall for a girl, yet she came no farther than his lips" p168. Big tall L'Amour does like slim tall girls.
(view spoiler)

6 One Last Gun Notch - Morgan Clyde 35, peaceful until returned with antelope haunch, found Diana "wife and smoking ruins" burned out by big cattlemen. Now a similar bigshot hires him to take out the Hallams. The girl, almost the size and prettiness of Diana, says Vic is out for antelope. "It was all the same" p227.
(view spoiler)

7 Death Song of the Sombrero - Stretch Magoon 6'5" reckons if rustler "ain't dead, he'll be some sore when he wakes up an' finds all that dirt in his face" p236, sees how Sombrero brand superimposes on Lucky S cattle he guards. But Tinkerville newcomer handsome Paul Hartman convinces lovely red-haired (another L'Amour weakness) owner Kelly "named for her pa's favorite burro" p255 Jarvis 21 to fire the "itinerant range detective" p240.
(view spoiler)

8 The Guns Talk Loud

<http://www.blackcowboys.com/boseikard...>

Drifter Sonora, big man with two guns, invites narrator Dan Ketrel, equally big and like-armed, for a drink. Dan remembers latest bandit description "very big man wearin' two guns" p263, as does town boss Harvey Kinsella. So Dan invites him to help pretty Mary Belton by tearing down big cattleman fence starving her cattle.

(view spoiler)

9 Grub Line Rider - Kim Sartain, stopped by hostile trio riding for big cattleman Jim Targ, decides to buy cattle from Tom Monaghan, especially after sighting "the swell of her bosom" p291 (closest to X-rating L'Amour gets) from his daughter Rusty, slim redhead "apt to be bossy" who will "feed anybody, stray dogs or no-account saddle bums not barred" p287.

(view spoiler)

10 The Marshal of Painted Rock is world-travelled Matt Sabre back again. Rafe Berry is set to hang, but the real criminal mastermind yet to be uncovered, despite allure of Claire Gallatin, actress masquerading as suspect's sister.

"To clean up a tough town without killing, that takes a *man!*" p341.

11 Trap of Gold - Weatherton finds rich gold under soft spire that will crush over-eager digging through base. Suspense. Rock creaks and groans warning. Will he quit before the weight above falls down?

(view spoiler)

Dick Dubay says

Exactly what you have come to expect from this author.

A well written series of stories with plenty of action. The short articles between the other stories are interesting and enjoyable. I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys a good western.

Wayland Smith says

If you like Westerns at all, I don't know what you need past "Louis L'Amour." If you don't, I don't know why you'd read this. L'Amour was a master of the western, and this is a good collection of many of his short stories. He wrote with a simple style, but it worked for the stories he was telling.

As with all things L'Amour, recommended for anyone who likes Westerns.

Steve says

I guess I chose a good Louis L'Amour book to read for my first. I enjoyed the short stories in this. I plan on reading more of his books in the future.

Wayne McCoy says

Law of the Desert Born is a graphic novel adaptation of the story by Louis L'Amour. A murder in a western town brings out a posse, but there may be more to the story than there appears.

The story opens with Marone riding into town and shooting a man in what appears to be cold blood. The town sheriff gets a posse together, including a jailed man named Lopez, to track him down. Marone seems to always be one step ahead, but Lopez is a good tracker and has history with Marone, which is told in flashbacks. The story narrows the posse down until it's only a couple people fighting it out in a harsh desert environment.

The graphic novel adaptation is by Charles Santino from a script by Beau L'Amour and Katherine Nolan and is based on the famous short story by Louis L'Amour. The art by Thomas Yeates is black and white and reminds me of old western films from when I was a kid. Included with the graphic novel is a great essay about the story behind the story. It includes the history of the story and the iterations it's had. There is also biographical information about Louis L'Amour. I really enjoyed it.

I was given a review copy of this graphic novel by Random House and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for letting me review this fine graphic novel.
