



The Renegades

T. Jefferson Parker

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Some say that outlaws no longer exist, that the true spirit of the American West died with the legendary bandits of pulp novels and bedtime stories. Charlie Hood knows that nothing could be further from the truth. These days he patrols vast stretches of the new American West, not on horseback but in his cruiser. The outlaws may not carry six-shooters, but they're strapped all the same. Along the desolate and dusty roads of this new frontier, Hood prefers to ride alone, and he prefers to ride at night. At night, his headlights illuminate only the patch of pavement ahead of him: all the better to hide from the demons and the dead outlaws receding in his rearview mirror. But he doesn't always get what he wants; certainly not when he's assigned a partner named Terry Laws, a county veteran who everyone calls Mr. Wonderful. And not when Laws is shot dead in the passenger seat and Hood is left to bear witness by someone who knew that Mr. Wonderful didn't always live up to his nickname. As he sets out to find the gunman, Hood knows one thing for sure: The West is a state of mind, one where the bad guys sometimes wear white hats and the good guys seek justice in whatever shade of gray they can find it.

The Renegades Details

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From Reader Review The Renegades for online ebook

Ben says

I've read the Hood stories not in order. It is very nice to see how Hood grows when I already know wheee he ends up.

James Thane says

Charlie Hood, a veteran of the Iraq War, is a modern-day lawman with the soul of a 19th century western sheriff. Charlie is a deputy in the L.A. Sheriff's Department, and he cruises the Antelope Valley in the desert north of the city. Charlie loves to drive, preferably alone, and preferably late at night.

One night however, Charlie is paired with another deputy, Terry Laws, known to the rest of the department as "Mr. Wonderful," because of the great job he's done raising his daughters, because of his dedication to the job, the bodybuilding titles he's won, and the charitable work he does in his off-duty hours. Hood and Laws respond to a routine Housing Authority complaint and as they are returning to the patrol car, a gunman appears from behind a tree and murders Laws in a hail of bullets. Hood survives, perhaps because the gun jammed or perhaps the gunman deliberately spared him.

Shortly thereafter, Hood receives a visit from Internal Affairs. The IA people suggest that perhaps "Mr. Wonderful" wasn't so wonderful at all and they want to add Hood to the team and have him investigate Laws. Hood is reluctant; he wants to patrol the county and catch bad guys. He has no taste for investigating fellow cops. But IA offers the usual rejoinder: somebody's got to police the police and, sadly, not all of the bad guys are civilians.

Hood begins his investigation and soon discovers that Laws had an awful lot of money for someone earning a deputy's wages. As he probes deeper into the situation, Charlie is drawn into a sordid world of drugs, money laundering and other illegal activities. But Hood is resolute; he has a strong moral compass, and he will pursue this mess to its conclusion, no matter how distasteful or violent.

This is the second of Parker's books to feature Charlie Hood, and as is always the case in Parker's books, the characters are unique, interesting and sharply drawn. The investigation is intriguing and the climax suitably violent and hair-raising. Parker has written a third book in the Charlie Hood series, Iron River, and one hopes that he will write a lot more.

Cathy DuPont says

Charlie Hood Rides into the Sunset, *for me that is*

After reading seven T. Jefferson Parker novels, I can say I'm familiar with Parker's writing.

The first of the Charlie Hood series L. A. Outlaws was just great and was almost given five stars, but I have such a hard time coughing up that fifth star, so it ended with the usual four from me. Yes, it was a good,

good book. I fell in love with the Charlie Hood character so couldn't wait to read the second in the series, this book, The Renegades.

Unfortunately, I was disappointed. Charlie simply didn't have the verve, charisma and likability that he possessed in L. A. Outlaws. All those attributes that I loved in L. A. Outlaws.

Parker's writing was up to par but the story line was shaky for my likes. And Charlie, well, he just seems to have changed into a not quite so likable and interesting guy as I left him in L. A. Outlaws.

The upside? A short review which allows me more reading time and a name I can strike off my series list. That makes me happy with the list being so long, however, I will definitely miss the old Charlie from LAO. Glad I didn't get to know him all that well, like five books well.

Leon Aldrich says

Another novel where Parker proves once again he is at the top of his game and deserving of all the accolades. Are you a "Charlie Hood" fan yet? If not this, then what?

Mike French says

Second verse better than The first! The Renegade is the second book of the Charlie Hood series and I give it 5 1/2 stars. T.Jefferson Parker knows how to keep the reader turning pages from start to finish! I highly recommend his books to my Goodreads friends!!!

Peg says

Dandy good Cop story set in L.A. It deals with drugs, cops both good and bad and some very nefarious people. This is the second book dealing with Charlie Hood as our main character. He's a cop that wants everyone to be either on the good side or the bad side - sides can't have both. He learns differently.

This one also introduced a new character that will be very interesting to watch in future Charlie Hood stories.

Sherman Langford says

There's something about Parker's writing that appeals to me. This isn't high brow lit in any sense. But it is intelligent middle-brow crime/mystery work. Charlie Hood is an appealing protagonist--solid moral compass, courageous, smart, effective. Bad guys with plenty of "bad" in them.

The structure was novel, where we knew pretty early on who the bad guy was. The story revolved around Hood pulling on strings to figure stuff out a chapter or two after the reader knows. It worked for me.

One minor complaint. The romantic relationship between Hood and the assistant DA rang hollow. The

feelings developed artificially, without any substantive foundation.

Phil Sageser says

Good cop/bad cop, hard-boiled story line. Characters are multidimensional without being very complex. The traits they display tend to be pretty extreme. There's no real mystery about what's going on, so the while the specific events are only revealed as we go along, the outcomes are all pretty predictable.

Quinn says

A very predictable book with very few action sequences. I hate it when an author names a book that has very little or nothing to do with the book. I like the character of Charlie Hood, but the storyline was drab, dull and just plain boring. The story about the Renegades would have been far more interesting. Unfortunately, they are mentioned only briefly and I did not feel that the author tied them into the story very well. The ending was lame and did not have any real thought.

Mac says

While I was praising Michael Connelly with a friend, he suggested I try T Jefferson Parker, and that suggestion led me to *The Renegades*. I'm glad for the recommendation because I enjoyed the book though I still prefer Connelly's Harry Bosch stories to Parker's Charlie Hood novels (admittedly based on a sample of only one).

In *The Renegades*, Parker shows he knows how to tell an interesting story; he pulls you in from the beginning, and he reveals details one-by-one as if assembling a puzzle. Throughout I was interested in the characters and anxious to know the outcomes of their various stories. And the alternating narrators is a fresh take on the typical police procedural. Overall, there's good reading here.

One negative: There are too many characters, creating temporary confusion from time to time. The multiple characters add depth to the story, but I'd prefer a leaner, more linear approach. (There's also more violence than I like, but that's on me, not Parker.)

Why the preference for Connolly? Though Parker writes well, Connelly has a relaxed way of telling his tales; it's comfortable, easy (and largely unmatched) reading. Perhaps I'm just more familiar with the Harry Bosch stories, having read many of them. There's a simple remedy. I'll try another Charlie Hood novel and get to know him--and Parker--better. I look forward to the opportunity.

Jeffrey says

This latest from T. Jefferson Parker is another cop and robber tale. Charlie Hood, is assigned to Antelope Valley, in California, and is riding with his partner Terry Laws, when they go to a housing project to join to Housing Authority case workers, who are investigating a report of drugs in an apartment.

On leaving, the housing project, Laws is gunned down and Hood believes he recognizes the assailant.

Hood is approached by Internal Affairs to investigate the Laws murder, and takes the case. Naturally, even though Laws is named Laws, he was not a lawful man.

This novel is a sequel of sorts to Parker's last novel entitled L.A. Outlaws, in that Hood, one of the main characters and Bradley Jones, the son of a main character in L.A. Outlaws, are two of the main characters in this book. It is not necessary to read L.A. Outlaws, but it sure helps as Hood broods for part of the book about Alison Mureitta (sp) the heroine/villain in L.A. Outlaws, who was killed, and Hood testifies about a crime that he witnessed in that novel. It also explains how Hood would be asked to join I.A., as the crime that Hood testifies about is about a dirty cop.

In any event, Hood, finds that Laws lived in a very large house purchased in part with money from a charity that does not seem to be collecting any money from anywhere. Hood zeroes in on the money and begins to question Laws life, his relationships and his most famous collar, that of a mental case named Shay Ehrodt (sp) who supposedly murdered two men in cold blood, and then was subdued by Laws and his partner Coleman Draper, a sheriff reservist. The fight between Laws, Draper and Ehrodt led to his mental problems.

Soon we can see that Draper is a pretty dirty character - a Renegade

The story is told from Hood's POV, then Draper's POV, then an anonymous person explaining to an equally anonymous party, what happened with Draper and Laws.

Even though Hood is a little dry, the book moves along fast, and is a really great read. Parker's insights into Draper's evilness, as shown from Hood's investigation and Draper's own actions is great. We also are left with some open issues with Bradley Jones and Hood, leaving the possibility of another story in this series.

I cannot wait.

Jeanette "Astute Crabbist" says

Bring lawyers, guns, and money,
The shit has hit the fan...

Alan says

Again, at least a four star read. Just enough carryover of characters from book 1 to provide sufficient continuity to draw the reader into a new series. Parker is able to paint realistic sworn cop/reservist trust issues and give a sense of tautness between the two cohorts. The story really drives home a sense of how crappy and abusive some reservists might be. The only motive the reservist here has is stroking his own ego and taking advantage of his position of authority, but Parker nicely under plays the sociopathy of his villains and still manages to treat the reader to some very scary stuff! Gives a frightening sense of how corrupt things might become with continued privatization of enforcement and detention. I'm getting to like Hood more and more as a character. Somewhat like Jack Reacher but thankfully less a superman. On to the next one!

Karl says

This hardcover is signed by T. Jefferson Parker.

Carol says

Charlie Hood of the L.A. Sheriff's...the writing is great..strong characters..
