



Hanging Woman Creek

Louis L'Amour

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Barnabus Pike is no gunfighter and not much of a street fighter. Eddie Holt is a black boxer in a white man's world. They've both taken their share of hard knocks. Now they're looking to survive a brutal winter in a remote Montana line shack, collect their pay, and settle down for good. Then they cross paths with a hardworking Irish immigrant and his beautiful, spirited sister, who've been burned off their land. It's a fight Pike and Holt don't want, don't need, and don't dare turn their backs on—especially when one of the perpetrators might be one of Pike's old friends. Hunted like animals across the frozen countryside, Pike and Holt will risk everything—including their reputations, their dreams—and their lives.

Hanging Woman Creek Details

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Author : Louis L'Amour

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From Reader Review Hanging Woman Creek for online ebook

Greg says

This is standard Louis L'Amour fare. He has said that he literally "walked the land my characters walk," and from time to time, I find myself researching and even visiting (upon occasion) places described in his books. I've never found him to claim historical events or geographical places as true when his claim wasn't supported. This version of *Hanging Woman Creek* came with a rough map in the front showing the locations of some of the places described in the book. On a recent vacation, we actually passed by or visited one or two...they are there, just as he described.

I especially enjoy the times when L'Amour waxes philosophical. There is some wisdom to what he says through his characters' words. Such a soliloquy occurs in this book, and I excerpt it here:

"A man has to face up to himself sometime or other. You can go on being satisfied or ducking the issue only so long, and then there comes a time when you start asking yourself, not what you've done with your summer wages, but with your whole life...And more often than not the answer you have to give yourself isn't a happy one."

"The thing a man has to realize is that it is never too late...About the worst thing a man can do is to let a dream die...An idea like that doesn't just lie fallow; it builds up and gathers background, trying to fit itself for realization...Every idea is a seed and, like a seed, it germinates. Only you have to feed it to make it grow properly."

"A man never starts to get old until he starts to forget his dream. Somebody said once that nature abhors a vacuum; well, from all that I'd seen, I would say that nature dislikes anything that doesn't produce."

These are thoughts worth pondering.

Radar696 says

I read most of his books when I was young so now that it's about 40 years later it's fun to be able to listen to them and experience these great westerns once again.

Faith says

L'Amour is a wonderful storyteller. Westerns aren't what I'd normally choose to read, but I picked this up out of curiosity and I was happily surprised at how much I enjoyed it.

This is the story of Pronto Pike's turning point in life. Pike's a cowhand drifting from job to job, enjoying a few fights between jobs. He and a new friend take a job in Eastern Montana and the story deals with rustlers, vigilantes, ranchers and homesteaders. Pike turns out to be a hero the reader totally likes - not perfect, but definitely not an anti-hero, either. He's intelligent and thoughtful, but also just a normal guy. There's nothing special about him except that maybe he's a bit more intelligent and thoughtful than average.

The best thing about L'Amour's writing is that just when you think you know where the story's going, he throws in a curve. He makes it totally natural (it's not just thrown in), and in many cases, it seemed, to me, to be more realistic than the average story would be.

This was my first Louis L'Amour book, but it won't be my last.

Laura says

Another plane ride...

I liked that the main character was a bit more ordinary than the usual L'Amour hero. But I wish that Eddie Holt hadn't been killed off. I liked him.

Wendy Jensen says

Louis L'Amour writes so well My husband and I enjoyed this 6 hour Audible on our trip this weekend. A thumbs up for both of us!

Elaine says

This setting was a bit further north than most of the Louis L'Amour books I've read, but this has the gutsy characters, the good guys and the bad guys with a little bit of mystery thrown in.

Sunny Singh says

I thought this was below average compared to Lamour's other books.

Rebecca Hill says

Not sure what to think of the book. It was not my usual genre and was written some time ago, which showed in the writing style. The characters were OK, not exceptionally strong or thoroughly developed. It would have been great to hear more about the homesteader and his sister, who end up as main characters to the tale with a minor introduction. The friendship between Pronto and Eddie was well written, yet it felt the friendship ended so the rest of the story could be wrapped up in a neat little bow. Lacking female characters at all, only two in the whole book, one was crazy and the other rides off into the sunset with the lead man. The historical pieces of the book were the best part. Train rides, the winding down of the Wild West and ranching life styles. A quick read, probably better suited for tween age kids interested in the western frontier.

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Tessanie says

It is a Western book. I have never read a Western book - I think. I expected cowboys and maybe Native Americans, a story set in the United States in the nine-teens century; a Frontierland (at Disneyland) kind of setting.

The story begins with the introduction of the main character, Barnabas „Pronto“ Pike. It is written from his point of view in a first person's narration. He just left prison together with two other men and they are waiting for a train going westwards. One of the other men is Eddie Holt. He and Pike become partners and decide to find work together in the West. The third man, Van Bokkelen, stays suspicious and leaves the small group soon and mysteriously. Pike and Eddie travel westwards by jumping on a train - like in the movies. Pike had been working with cattle before and knows some ranchers around Miles City. They find a job to supervise a cattle during the winter in the mountains at Hanging Woman Creek. Apparently, this is hard work for which it is difficult to find someone.

So what is a Western? It was definitely a thrilling kind of story. There were many peaks in the story and I was holding my breath more than once when suddenly an unforeseen character showed up or in other sudden turns of events.

It was set in Montana and Wyoming, in the North of the United States.

There were cowboys in it. Native Americans were only mentioned at the side of the story, but did not occur in the scenes. The story had a saloon and sheriffs, guns and ranchers. Also a Pinkerton appeared.

There was fighting and killing in it. People got badly injured.

There were feelings in it. The main character is a very social, helpful and caring person. He takes Eddie as his partner who has no experience with cowboying and helps him get a job. He supports the Irish settler Philo Farley, while the other people think of him as a thief of land and cattle. He rescues Ann Farley, his love interest. Though his feelings for her are not shown explicitly at the beginning, you could see, he fell for her and cared a lot about her well-being.

The Bechdel test is failed completely. In total, four women appear in the story, but they never share a scene together. The first woman, Eddie and Pike come across, lets them cut wood for a lunch. Later, Pike meets Ann Farley, who is the sister of the Irish settler Philo. Lottie Orum, a weird woman who lives in the region, and Verna Elwin, an English friend of Ann, complete the female character set.

In comparison to „Hanging Woman Creek“ referring to the location of the story, the German title is „Eiskaltes Blut“ referring to frozen blood that clots more quickly and saves at least two lives in the story. It also might refer to the cold personality of Miles City's ranchers who kill the Irish settler because they think he is stealing their land.

Steven Freeman says

Entertaining story with excellent geographic detail of central Montana. The perfect stress buster.

Benjamin Thomas says

No Matter how many times I read a Louis L'Amour book from my "to be read" pile (or shelves in my case) I seem to still have about 5 left to read. I'm beginning to think they are breeding. Nevertheless, I always seem to enjoy them and really tend to use them as breaks between larger novels. With over a hundred novels and short story collections published I am constantly amazed when I read one of his books and discover a whole new actual story and not just a repetition of something he's done before.

Hanging Woman Creek, is yet again an original western story. This is one of his shorter ones, coming in at exactly 150 pages in my copy. It's the story of Baranbus "Pronto" Pike who, for a change, is no gun fighter and not really much of a fist fighter either although he has found himself in many such scraps over the years. He meets up with Edie, a boxer, who also happens to be black, and together they look to survive a rugged Montana winter while making plans to start their own horse/cattle ranch. Edie teaches Pike the finer arts of boxing which come in handy at the end of the story. But they come across an old friend of Pike's who apparently, has gotten mixed up with the bad side of the law and before you know it, Pike and Edie are in the fight of their lives. As always with a L'Amour book, good triumphs over evil and there is a happy ending.

Pike is an unusual protagonist for L'Amour in that he is not the quiet, reserved gunfighter that we often see. The story is told from the first person perspective and it becomes obvious very soon in the story that Pike is not cut from the normal hero mold of so many westerns. That's probably what I like most about this book. The way in which the author weaves historical elements of life between the Little Big Horn and the Powder Rivers in 1885 with the action of cattle rustling, bar fights and, of course, a blossoming romance, makes for a great western read.

Violet says

This is another story about the bullies of the west (rustlers and ranchers) picking on the smaller farmers/nesters). The heroes are two young men who just happened to meet up, one white and one black, but make a good combination. They are hired to keep watch on cattle at a Montana camp but it doesn't last long. Their Irish friends are burned out and the bad guys have them in their sights, so they make a run for the nearest town, two or three days away in the dead of winter ... very entertaining.

Dorian says

This was a fun book to listen to while travelling through the western US on a road trip. L'Amour's writing style can keep you awake and engaged, albeit he often reuses certain phrases to the point that we wondered if we'd accidentally gone to a previous chapter.

Cheruv says

This is what I have come to expect from a good L'Amour novel.
Realistic setting, tight story, strong characters and a plot that gallops along like a bucking bronco.

I can't recall other books from the author in first person perspective, so that was different, but it was executed well. I also enjoyed the dialogue in this book. I could "hear" them speak.

L'Amour had a knack for that.

This is another shorter book, but he packs a lot of story in just 150 pages.

I really enjoyed the book.

Jonathan says

This was my least favorite of L'Amour's books that I've come across. I always have five or four stars to give his works. This one started really shaky. The first 25 or 30 pages were not great. But it had all the classic elements of a L'Amour novel. This one got four stars but just barely.
