



Robert B. Parker's Ironhorse

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THE NEW COLE AND HITCH NOVEL

Newly appointed as Territorial Marshals, Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch are traveling by train on a mission to escort Mexican prisoners to the border. But when the Governor of Texas climbs aboard with his wife, daughters, and \$500,000 in tow, the journey becomes a lot more complicated. An old enemy—still carrying plenty of scars from the last time he saw Virgil—has hitched a ride. He's not alone. And he's got vengeance on his mind.

Robert B. Parker's Ironhorse Details

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Author : Robert Knott

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From Reader Review Robert B. Parker's Ironhorse for online ebook

Wayland Smith says

I love this book and series. I was very worried when I heard Parker's various series were being taken over, and so far every replacement has been worthy.

This continues the adventures of Cole and Hitch, very clearly in Parker's voice for the characters. Memorable new friends show up, and there's a lot of good action. I found this very enjoyable.

The Western is not dead, it's doing quite well under Mr. Knott's pen. I'm glad he is taking up for the late, great Robert B Parker, who I still miss.

Cindy says

I was so excited to see another Virgil Cole installment. I didn't know how this author would do with Robert Parker's book but I didn't see that much difference in writing style. I finished the book in 2 days and enjoyed it. I didn't figure out the "Yankee" so that was a nice surprise. From what I remember of the other books which I read many years ago, this book takes place after Appaloosa but before the next one in the series.

Larry says

Three writers have contracted to continue Robert B. Parker's series of novels: Michael Brandman (a reasonably good job of replicating the fairly undemanding Jesse Stone novels), Ace Atkins (a solid job of capturing the voice of Spenser, especially early Spenser, though not as tough as when Parker first wrote about him), and Robert Knott (who pretty much captures the tone of the Virgil Cole/Everett Hitch westerns, which are the most repetitive of the three series). The laconic patter between Cole and Hitch works, though it gets a little old by the end. The description of how railroads and telegraphs work is fairly interesting, even if it slows the plot. The plot itself is serviceable, though the gunplay does get to be pretty consistently lopsided in favor of Virgil and Everett. Some of the side characters (Uncle Ted, Berkeley, and the women who work as telegraphers or station masters) are interesting enough that they don't seem like just local color.

Jill Manske says

I'm so glad that other writers are taking up the reins and continuing the tradition of Robert B. Parker characters. With Parker's death, I grieved for the books he had yet to write. Now, other talented writers are filling that void. This is Knott's first novel, but he was involved with the production of the film version of "Appaloosa". He seems to have channelled Parker, staying true to the writing style as well as the personalities of Cole and Hitch. Clearly, Knott researched this book thoroughly; the details about steam locomotives, telegraph equipment and weapons feel authentic and lend credence to the story. I was skeptical at first, trying to find fault with Knott's style and/or his vision of Cole and Hitch, but was soon won over. It may not be as good as one actually written by Parker, but it's close enough to be thoroughly entertaining.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: The Ironhorse

Author: Robert Knott

Pages: 384

Year: 2013

Publisher: Putnam Adult

When I first saw the picture of the cover and read the title, I thought that this would be another western novel to read. After getting about halfway through to book, I started to see a pattern emerging that wasn't encouraging. No one is ignorant of the fact that the Old West was not pristine or an easy time period in which people lived. We have all seen some westerns that show everything and others that kids could view. One thing people from all over the world enjoy is a good story. Whether the story teaches something or not, in the heart of mankind is a strong desire for stories. As with each individual tastes are vast and different so too are the genre, authors, characters, etc...

Since westerns have always been a favorite genre of mine because of my Nana's influence, I thought I would try a new author. I have a great collection of Louis L'Amour novels. He was a writer who wasn't locked into any mold of writing; he could tell a great tale that captivated generations of people. I had hoped that this novel would tell a good story. I expected some mention of the less desired professions as well. I was not surprised to find foul language, but what was very surprising was the amount of it as if no other words in the English language existed. As is the habit of some authors they take the twenty first century slang/foul words and put it in a different era that doesn't seem to be truthful to the genre or period of history.

When I went back to read other reviews on Amazon about the book, I ran across others that were disappointed for various other reasons than the language. Have we become so immune to hearing, speaking or reading these words that we no longer challenge authors to write a story without this element? It seems such a waste of talent and a good tale to ruin it all with the overuse of nasty words. Sometimes I wonder if we are so uneducated as to think words spoken today meant the same as in the past. Are we? I don't believe readers are at all. I think authors can be forgetful of the influence they have over people who read what they take time to share. It is my hope that people will not read novels like this which I had to discard because of the amount of foul language.

Authors please share your stories with people, but try to change the use of foul language to clean words that help build the tale not detract from it. There are people who love reading a good novel who will be repeat readers if you do, regardless of anything else you might be told.

My rating is 1 star.

Note: The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyourheart.blogspot.com> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Rob Wood says

Having been a fan of the movie Appaloosa and thus its screenplay, I have been anxiously waiting for this book. I must say I was not disappointed. It's as if the flinty natured Virgil Cole turned in for the evening at the close of Appaloosa... arose the following morning to leap off the pages of IronHorse as recounted in Everett Hitch's familiar voice. Knott seamlessly transcends the depth of Parker's original cast into the new adventure

while ushering in an ensemble of fresh, captivating and flavorful new players. As I read my imagination painted visuals of Burton Berkley, Sam, Jimmy John, Halfmoon Junction, Sleepwalkin Cindy's and of course Bloody Bob in a movie sequel. IronHorse kidnapped my attention from the first page and left me wanting more. Robert B. Parker would be proud and fans will want more. Well done! RW

Lee Goldberg says

Robert Knott's IRONHORSE is not as good as Robert B. Parker's first two Virgil Cole novels, but it's better than his last one, which was truly awful on just about every level. Knott doesn't have Parker's characters down at all (Cole makes many uncharacteristic, dull expository speeches in this book), and there's quite a bit of repetition, with the characters telling one another what we already know (a rookie mistake for newbie authors), and he doesn't capture Parker's lean style. But taken on its own merits, IRONHORSE is an enjoyable western none-the-less, with a fast-moving, twisty plot and some strong action. Bottom line: it doesn't come close to Ace Atkins' brilliant Spenser novel, which perfectly captured Parker's voice, nor was it as bad as Michael Brandman's execrable Jesse Stone books.

Maggie says

Excellent story and reproduction of Virgil and Hitch. Caught the pace and tone perfectly. Of the 3 authors who have tried to capture Parkers characters Mr. Knott has done the best work . Mr. Knott is to be commended. Looking forward to more Virgil and Hitch stories.

sam says

Do NOT read this book. Please. Ask any Hemingway imitator, just cause the sentences are basic doesn't mean they are easy to write. Sometimes another writer can pick up the torch, Ace Atkins did very well by another Parker series, Mr. Parker himself with Raymond Chandler but that is not the case here. Since the author was involved with making the movie of the first book of the series, I assume he loves the series as much as I do but he can't do Parker patter justice. As Everitt Hitch is one of my literary crushes, I beg the estate of the late, great Mr.Parker to cease and desist.

Mike (the Paladin) says

Hummm...seems I should have read the "fine print" earlier. I've stated that I was disappointed because Mr. Parker only wrote 6 of these. Turns out he4 only wrote 4. This and the next are written by Robert Knott the man who wrote the screen play for Appaloosa.

So like other writers Robert B. Parker has become a franchise I suppose.

That's the sulfur now for the molasses. Mr. Knott does a very creditable job of following up the adventures of Virgil and Everett. I enjoyed the book.

Now I'll say here there were a few "false notes" a couple of times the voices didn't ring as true as they might have. Everett and Virgil are typical western characters. They are generally some taciturn and what humor there is is very, very dry...arid. In one case in an exchange where Everett is drawing Virgil out (something that has become a bit of a theme) I thought he drew it out too long for the characters.

So you can see, any objections I have are minor ones. I liked this, think Mr. Knott did a good job, plan to get the next and if it's this good I hope he stays with the series.

The action here (as you can tell) revolves around the rails in the old west. Virgil and Everett are wearing badges again and an old foe shows back up. Handled well, lots of action well written.

I like it, I recommend it. Enjoy.

Eric says

While it was really nice to revisit two of my favorite gunslinging lawmen -- Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch -- the writing, while passable, was just not the same as when the late Robert B. Parker wrote the pair. Although this was, in fairness, completely to be expected, it was still mildly disappointing.

Robert Knott, the author that continues the series with this entry, is actually familiar to the characters, having written the screenplay to the film adaptation of *Appaloosa*, the first book in Parker's series.

Knott's experience as a screenwriter is apparent from the direction the series takes. The action is intensified and hits hard right from the beginning, with the book opening with a train heist gone wrong -- wrong for the robbers, that is, because Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch happened to be on the train at that time.

I won't say more about the plot for fear of spoilers, but will say this is definitely worth reading for fans of westerns, but only after reading the preceding four volumes written by the characters' creator first.

Lynette Barfield says

I believe this is Robert Knott's first book. Even if it isn't he had to fill some big shoes which, I think, he did admirably well. It was good enough for me and I am hard to please. I love the Hitch and Cole characters and was excited to see that someone was commissioned to carry the series forward. My only critique is about the difference in education between Hitch and Cole. I felt Parker's books referred to that more often. I can live with it. I can't wait for the next one.

Joe says

Alas, the late great Robert Parker is no more. Unfortunately, that hasn't stopped his wife from contracting with other authors to continue the Spenser, Jessie Stone, and with Ironhorse - the Virgil Cole westerns.

Virgil Cole and sidekick Everett Hitch are new federal marshals heading back home from Mexico when they are caught up in a train robbery involving the Texas Governor and some old enemies. It has all the trappings

of a generic western, and that's all the story ends up being - enjoyable but mostly forgettable by the end.

Knott knows his trains and weaves in some interesting tidbits about telegraph operation, but that doesn't help the formulaic plot and stock characters. Even Virgil and Everett seem to be playing their parts in a routine script.

The last Cole/Hitch book written by Parker hinted at new directions for the the main characters and the promise of new adventures. This entry disappoints, and I think it's time to let Virgil and Everett ride off into the sunset one last time.

Carol Beggy says

I was lucky enough to receive a copy of this book as a gift. I was a fan of Robert Parker and am now a fan of Robert Knott. Knott gives Parker's characters a real sense of place and mission while keeping the dialogue very much in Parker's style. For those readers who are fans of Western genre, tales of trains, or late 19th century (turn of the last century) history, you'll love this book. And, Knott is like Larry McMurtry in that he enlivens Parker's character with such a sense of place, that even those who don't normally gravitate to this "type" of book, will find this an enjoyable read. It will make a great gift and make you think of what Knott might do with this story on the big (or little?) screen. Knott and Ed Harris were the team behind making Robert B. Parker's Appaloosa into a movie.

Grey853 says

Robert Knott is not Robert B. Parker, but he did put in some effort. It's a very long book, close to 400 pages, but there's a lot of padding to tell what really turns out to be a very simple story.

Cole and Hitch come across as 2-dimensional gunslingers, so I was a bit disappointed.
