



The Mysterious West

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Edited by Tony Hillerman, the Southwest's foremost suspense writer, this first-ever collection of mystery stories set in the West contains 20 original entries by such luminary mystery writers as Marcia Muller, Susan Dunlap, and Robert Campbell.

The Mysterious West Details

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Author : Tony Hillerman

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From Reader Review The Mysterious West for online ebook

Fredrick Danysh says

A nice collection of short mysteries by various western writers set in the West. Unfortunately there is nothing by Hillerman in the collection that he edited.

Allison says

One of the best collections of mystery short stories ever... also the start to Dana Stabenow's Kate Shugak series.

Benjamin Thomas says

I continue my efforts to try and read short stories between my regular rotation of longer works and am happy to say that I've really come to appreciate the form. I still prefer full length novels, probably because I enjoy falling deeply into the world of whatever novel I happen to be reading and often find myself desiring to continue wallowing there instead of coming out and facing the real world. But the craft of writing a high quality short story is a difficult thing to accomplish and I am always amazed when I read a good one and realize how much I have come to know the characters and their situation in only 20-30 pages.

This volume, put together by the esteemed Tony Hillerman, is packed with good ones. It's important to note that these are all stories that are set in The West, not "Westerns". The West has always been a great setting for stories for me, especially mysteries and I enjoyed every one of these entries. As always with collections of these kinds, some are better than others, but I didn't read a single stinker in all 20 stories. Several great authors have stories here including Robert Campbell, D.R. Meredith, M.D. Lake, J.A. Jance, Dana Stabenow, and Bill Pronzini. Of course the downside of reading collections like this is all of the authors who have now intrigued me to search out other stories and novels they have written.

Well deserving of the Anthony Award for Best Short Story Collection in 1995 (literary award for mystery writers).

Robert Hann says

Short stories aren't something I enjoy instinctively, but I do try to check in with the form from time to time. For the most part, these stories weren't for me. Well, they were neither here nor there. But there were several exceptions, and three of those were positive: 'Nooses Give,' by Dana Stabenow; 'The Beast in the Woods,' by Ed Gorman; and 'Engines,' by Bill Pronzini. The Stabenow story because I liked the window it gave on modern Alaskan natives, the Gorman story because it worked for me emotionally, and the Pronzini story for his regard of the desert. I'd not heard of any of these people, and I'll now likely follow up on them going forward.

Ruby says

A compilation of bone-chilling, head scratching, knee-slapping stories-the like that will never be seen again about the Wild West. There is not a dull story in the whole bunch!

Bruce says

As some mystery writers age they use their expertise to edit anthologies. Hillerman has done an excellent job with this volume. His area of expertise is the American West. The short stories in this volume are set in the American West. All of the authors develop their characters and their plots with mystery in mind. While some endings are predictable part way through the stories, they all are excellent reads.

Jill Manske says

This is a nice compilation of mysteries set in the West written by a variety of novelists. The stories are very entertaining, and it introduced me to some new authors. The late Tony Hillerman wrote an intro to each story and about each author. Nice book to read on a cold winter night.

Karen says

This is the paperback I keep in my purse for when I'm waiting at the doctor's office or the car dealer. The stories are delightfully mysterious and I can usually get through at least one in a sitting. I especially like Hillerman's introductions to the authors and their stories, many of which I haven't been exposed to before.

Alethea Hammer says

In the Dog Days of Summer my attention span gets very short. Whodunits and short stories are just right to get me through. This is a lovely little collection of short mystery stories written by other people, edited and compiled by Tony Hillerman. Fun little book.

Jennifer says

bathtub book - cat mystery was hilarious!

Phil Lawless says

Bought it years ago. Finished it today. A good collection of short stories, although they cover more ground than just the traditional west.

Clare O'Beara says

All of these stories are copyright in 1994 and they present a middle and western America with no cell phones, no computer searches, just people, cars and horses. Landscape and weather, sometimes dogs. Tony Hillerman is the editor and none of the stories are about tribal police in the Four Corners; he could easily have contributed one. The closest is an early Dana Stabenow about Kate Shugak and Mutt when Kate has just returned to her Park cabin in Alaska. Hillerman also does not contribute a foreword, which I missed. I like to hear the editor's own voice when they are not being a storyteller. The editor has added a very brief intro to each short story.

I found a Midnight Louie short story by Carole Nelson Douglas. In this tale Midnight Louie is enlisted to aid a coyote family who are losing members to poison. The big black cat is wary of coyotes but accepts the case, and his human friend Temple Barr does not feature.

Some of the stories appeal more than others, but overall we get a sense of complete ordinariness. These are ordinary people, not spies, dangerous Seals and FBI, just quarrelling couples, wilderness explorers, divorcees starting new lives. What matters to them will perhaps matter to you. The West here is taken to be anywhere from the Midwest to the ocean's edge, but not cityscapes. These stories are a good way to explore. Most of the authors are unfamiliar to me but some were not and others I would like to revisit. Already the tales feel frozen in time.

Andrea says

I don't read a lot of serial mysteries so didn't really know any of the writers in this collection, but I enjoyed nearly all of them. There was a range from humorous to more heavy and the "west" was also pretty broad--covering Arizona, New Mexico and California but also the upper midwest. At a time when my attention is diverted elsewhere, this required just the right amount of concentration.

Maryanne says

Mysterious West 2/2/2012 Short stories edited by Tony Hillerman.
Really enjoyed this.

Karen says

loved it - sometimes ya just want a short story for a quick read and this is great

