



Shooter's Cross

Colby Jackson

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CURSED LAND

Army Scout Sam Blaylock rode into the small Texas town of Shooter's Cross looking for deserters, not trouble.

While up in the mountains, he discovered a wilderness plagued by nature and haunted by superstition, but one that he thought he could tame with his experience and strong back.

He didn't know he was going to have to kill to keep the home he planned for his family, but he didn't let that stop him. Sam had been looking for a home for his family for years. That search had been interrupted by the Civil War.

Now Sam is putting down roots, and not even the Devil himself can stand in the way.

Shooter's Cross Details

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Author : Colby Jackson

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From Reader Review Shooter's Cross for online ebook

Charles says

Excellent book. Although this is a western and has plenty of gunplay, it's also about how men and women built the west and the struggles they went through to make homes for themselves and their children. Wonderful characters. I liked it so well that as soon as it was done I immediately started on book two of this series, which is called the Rancho Diablo series.

Jilly says

A good Ole Western, just the ticket

Connie Taylor says

Shooter's Cross is a good western adventure with lots of action from bushwackers to unscrupulous attorneys. This is the first of the series and shows us how early settlers had not only battles with nature but how the bad guys tried to take something that was built by someone else for their greed. The characters are strong and the detail that Mr. Jackson weaves into the story are vivid and alive.

I'm looking forward to reading more of the Rancho Diablo series, getting to know each of the men and women.

Nancy says

Sam Blaylock was a typical strong, silent type Western man. The author told the story nicely. I was surprised when I got to the end, because I wanted the author to show Jenny the waterfall, not just tell us Sam would show it to her. The story seemed unfinished and sure enough, there's another book about Rancho Diablo. I don't feel compelled to read it, but I may some day.

Andrew says

Sam Blaylock comes to the town of Shooter's Cross, TX, and buys a plot of land with the intent of setting up a ranch for him and his family. He gathers a crew together and starts to build something special. In the process, he makes both friends and enemies in the town of Shooter's Cross.

This short novel, the first installment of the Rancho Diablo series, showcases just the sort of thing I'm enjoying in the new ebook revolution. Because the authors are able to publish frequent, shorter installments, each book can focus on the job at hand. In this case, that job is to introduce the main players of the series, and their location. It's a classic western, with a tough cowboy trying to retire from a violent former life and

start a new, peaceful one for himself and his family. Along the way, he has to contend with difficulties from the land, and from greedy bad guys trying to take that peaceful life away from him.

It's a great setup for a series, and a decent story in its own right. Readers will find a sense of closure at the end of the story, but also hunger to know what happens next. The prose is very visual and detailed, while still clear and unpretentious. The characters are well-drawn, each with their distinct voices.

If I have one complaint, it's that Sam is a bit too perfect. He's a great gunfighter, engineer, card sharp, scout, etc. However, this is only the first book in the series. Hopefully, his character will become a little more fleshed-out as the series progresses.

And I'll definitely be along to see that progress. This first installment has me hooked, and I'm ecstatic that I don't have to wait any time at all for the next one.

Benjamin Thomas says

The first of an original western series, written by a stable of veteran authors (Mel Odom, James Reasoner, and Bill Crider) under the house name, "Colby Jackson". And a promising start it is. There are several well-done staples of western fiction such as gun battles, land rights, and a very nice round of poker that actually reminds me of something you might see in a James Bond movie.

But what really makes this one shine is the concept of "building something". That bedrock ideal of carving a living and a life out of nothing through sheer hard work and perseverance is refreshing in today's world. This is not a long book but thoroughly enjoyable. Looking forward to future volumes.

Dee says

This book is really good full of humor, action, hard work, shoot outs. The story line is very well developed plus has lots of twists and turns that keep you turning the pages. It also has something else and that's called heart. Sam Blaylock had looked far and wide for the right place to call home, when he found Rancho Diablo he knew he was there. He knew it was going to take a lot to build that home but he also knew he was the man along with his friends that could do it. He knew to that it would take a lot to hold on to it, some men being greedy as they were. Once they started there was no turning back, it all came together as Sam knew it would. Even better when he got Jenny's approval! The cast of characters are really far flung but the type of guys you would want at your side. Men you can trust. The town of Shooters Cross has another set of characters of its own. Some of them are not your favorite kind but Sam lets them know that he's a just man but won't back away from trouble if that's what they have in mind. Highly recommended.

Kevin C says

I definately enjoyed this book. It had plenty of action in it, lots of likeable characters, and a story that moved along fast. My only complaint is that maybe, just maybe, it moved along a bit too fast. God knows I hate a book that drags it's feet and gets so in depth with details and character developepment that it gets bogged down. I found with this book that I had a bit of the opposite problem. The characters are so likeable that I wanted to

get to know them better!

Don't let this mild criticism stop you from reading it though. It's a fun book, and I'm looking forward to reading the next book in the series! Maybe that's the plan. Leave 'em wanting more....well I do!

Warren Benton says

I would give this a 3.25. a nice quick read about Sam Blaylock who buys a ranch to start a life on with his family after the civil war. Sam brings in a few friends to get his land ready for his family. the build a sawmill and look to clean up the water supply. Sam can seem to escape trouple and has to use his scouting skills to save his life and take a few.

LadyCalico says

This is just one totally great little Western, short in length and filled with action, likeable heroes, and hateable villains--not to mention some pretty impressive engineering and poker.

Barbara Lee Wood says

SAM BLAYLOCK

Sam Baylock and family, friends who he fought with are helping him to make a home in the wilderness. You always have a few miscreants who make life miserable for those who live in or around town. Some people aren't going to let people push them around...you know bullies to the end.. This is a preview of what men go through just trying to keep a roof over head and food on the table. Nicely done, lots of action and the ugly side of the human psyches are on display..

Martha Peebles says

Great book

I have really enjoyed reading this book. I know I will be reading the rest of the series of Rancho Diablo. The author has done a great job. It was really hard to lay this book down.

Randy says

First in a new series of ebook westerns about Sam Blaylock, a man who buys Rancho Diablo to build a home for his wife and children. it costs everything he's saved and he has a year to come up with the same amount or he forfeits the ranch and any improvements. he sends for two men he trusts to help and hires some locals to help.

First he builds a saw mill and begins cutting lumber for building a home, barn, and bunk house, as well as selling excess to builders in the town of Shooter's Cross.

Soon, greedy people, including the previous owner, begin scheming to take it from him. Something Sam Blaylock is not going to allow happen.

Other writers who will be working on the series include James Reasoner, Bill Crider, and Mel Odom.

D. E. says

A CJ. Rancho Diablo (1) Western/A Ranch/Gunfight/Laying Down the Rules

CJ. Had penned the first novel in theaTrical Diablo series where our intrepid hero has a gunfight with a wild child of a local rancher, which leads to hard times between the ranch owner and the wild child's farther. The ranch her is not the only one who becomes an enemy. This is an excellent read for the genre.... DEHS

Jody says

I was in the mood for a western and picked this up for free from Amazon. It was pretty good. It is the beginning of a series and the ending leaves you wanting more (which is the way a series is supposed to work so no fault there). I was pleased with the characters and the story. We are introduced to Sam (lead character) at the beginning and we will not meet his wife until the very end but man, what a story in the middle. This book has everything a good western is supposed to...dynamite, gunfights, fistfights, poker and dry humor. It even has the token loveable drunk who is a great worker as long as he is sober. There are several of these books out there and if they follow the first one in quality, they will all be good westerns.
