



The Burning Hills

Louis L'Amour

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Wounded, dehydrated, and escaping and violent feud with the men of Bob Sutton's ranch, Trace Jordan is near collapse when he descends from the heat of the desert into a cool, secluded canyon. He wakes to find a beautiful woman gently caring for his injuries. Maria Cristina and her family have also suffered at the hands of Sutton and his men. The experience has left her hostile and defiant. But Jordan sees another side of Maria, and the more time they spend together, the greater his concern for her safety becomes. Sutton's men are watching and waiting for him to show himself. If he escapes, Maria will be left behind to face their brutality. But if he convinces her to join him, he will be leading her into a heat-blasted, waterless desert. And if that doesn't kill them, the Apaches will.

The Burning Hills Details

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Author : Louis L'Amour

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From Reader Review The Burning Hills for online ebook

Henry Avila says

Trace Jordan is an easy going cowboy, who has only killed 6 men in his life! He rounds up wild horses to make a few bucks, a man has to eat. Coming back from grocery shopping, he finds his horses and gear missing and by the way his partner killed. This annoys him a little. After a long ride running away from the bad guys and shooting a few. Jordan with a hole in his side, is saved by a pretty young widow. Did anyone imagine the cowboy would die! She found his secret hiding place in the middle of nowhere. What a lucky break! Maria Cristina the girl and Trace the man, are eventually properly introduced. Good manners should always be observed! The couple try to escape their difficulties. Will they make it to safety?

Jean says

This book was originally published in 1956. I first read it in 1976. I was looking for a western to read and decided to re-read Louis L'Amour. The book is more of a romance story than what L'Amour usually writes. Trace Jordan is on the trail of the men who killed his partner and stole his horses. He is wounded and now the hunter becomes the hunted. He finds a place to hide temporarily and is nursed by Maria Cristina. Now they both are on the run.

The book is well written. L'Amour is famous for placing his story in a real location. If the reader goes to the location they can follow the book description step by step. L'Amour is a master storyteller. His descriptive language flows smoothly. The great thing about his books is you can read them over and over with great enjoyment each and every time.

This time I read the book as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. The book is four hours. Keith Szarabajka does a good job narrating the book. Szarabajka is a well-known actor and audiobook narrator.

serena482* says

My rating 3.5 stars.

Benjamin Thomas says

This is the 72nd Louis L'Amour book I've read. Wow, I can't believe I just typed that. I started when I was about 12 and have just kept on reading them. They serve as good fillers when you need a quick read between weightier efforts.

This one represents what L'Amour does best: a lone wounded man in deep trouble, shot and having to survive with his wounds, no water, bad guys hunting him, and the ever present threat of Indians. But this one was also a bit different from most L'Amour novels in that our hero actually spends a fair amount of time

pursuing a woman. Usually women play minor roles or else are the main character. But the romance is usually left to the imagination after the novel ends.

I'd rank this one in the top 10% of the L'Amour novels I've read so far.

Conny says

Challenge #1: Jemand sucht ein Buch für dich aus, das du sonst nicht einmal anfassen würdest.

Louis L'Amour hat nicht nur ein fantastisches Pseudonym, sondern auch allerlei erzählerische Begabungen. Die Geschichte ist so packend wie ergreifend: Ein Typ erschießt einen anderen Typen, wird daraufhin selbst angeschossen und flieht durch die Wüste. Er wird zwar verfolgt, findet aber zum Glück immer die besten Verstecke. Doch obwohl er so gut versteckt ist, dass ihn nicht einmal seine Verfolger aufspüren können, findet ihn rein zufällig eine heiße Mexikanerin, die sonst Schafe hütet. Die Mexikanerin ist seine grosse Liebe.

Nicht nur die Handlung dieses Romans ist fein ausgearbeitet; Louis L'Amour gelingen auch interessante Perspektivenwechsel in ein und demselben Satz - und dank zahlreicher Wiederholungen vergisst man nie, dass die Verfolger den Verfolgten wirklich weiterhin verfolgen.

Fazit: Wir sind uns sicher, dass Louis L'Amour eine Western-Maschine besass, die 300 Wörter beinhaltete und diese immer wieder zu neuen Romanen mischte. Nur so erklärt sich die hohe Veröffentlichungsfrequenz (es gibt über 100 Werke von ihm zu geniessen!) und die einzigartige Qualität.

Sophia says

If one wants a tough, gritty hero, sweeping description of settings, a plot full of desperation and tension against the backdrop of the Old West, look no further.

The book grabbed me from the beginning with a hero desperately fleeing for his life and a woman's bravery to keep him alive against the odds. It was a shorter piece, but it was well developed and paced well. The setting was the Arizona- Mexico border so the characters and their situations of that region were represented accurately along with the historical context.

The hero, Trace Jordan, was not deeply developed, but enough so that I got a feel for him and what motivated him. The heroine, Maria Christina's background, was more explained.

The action was parts gun battles and parts desert survival along with a mild, yet stormy romance. I was eager to follow along and discover how they were going to get out of the tight corners.

This was my first time with the narrator, Keith Szarabajka. He had a good voice to match the tone and type of the book. Maria Christina was his only female voice, but I loved the way he captured her personality and the emotion of the overall story.

It was an easy listen, exciting, and engaging novella-length story and I definitely recommend it for Western

fiction fans.

My thanks to Penguin-Random House for the opportunity to listen to this book in exchange for an honest review.

Scott Lyson says

"A man can't make it alone. Needs him a woman. These here city women, they look mighty nice but a man out here needs a woman who can walk beside him, not behind him."

Tom says

Oh Louis L'Amour... Who else can write what's basically a romance novel about a horse-wrangler bleeding his way through the Mexico/Arizona desert while bad dudes and Indians chase him?

Our hero sets off to kill the horse thieves who shot his bronco-busting partner, but they turn out to be part of the biggest ranch families in the area. So the tables quickly turn and our hero has a gut full of lead. He runs, passes out and wakes up being tended by a fiery-hot senorita. It isn't long before these two are vacillating between making moon-eyes and spitting fire at each other, fighting like angry wildcats.

"I KEEL YOU!" she screams.

"Aw, you just ain't been halter-broke yet!" he shouts back as they wrestle back and forth.

Somehow treating this angry woman like a wild horse that needs to be broken turns out to be just the right thing to do and they wind up together in the end, shooting a bunch of bad guys and Indians along the way.

Ridiculous fun.

Hmmmm.... I wonder if this approach to women still works? Maybe I'll try that with my wife some day, "Honey, you keep on frettin' around like that and yer gonna throw a shoe! What you need is a strong rope, tight reins and a firm hand! And I'm just the cow-poke to fill that role!"

Jamie Barringer (Ravenmount) says

I really disliked this book. I've read enough of L'Amour's novels to be used to his sexist characters and the role of women in his stories, and sometimes he writes some pretty decent ones. This novel, though, shows a non-white woman in the Mexican border region of California who is forced to accept an asshole hero gunfighter as her 'protector' and partner, after he rescues her from the bad guys. The hero seems to think that when the woman refuses him, she is simply untamed and needs to be trained, or broken, the way he breaks wild horses. He does 'get' the woman in the end, but not because he wins her over so that she chooses him.

He simply forces himself on her and she reluctantly relents and accepts him. This novel does show how awful non-white women's circumstances may have been during the Wild West era, but I was really annoyed at the ending and was rooting for the bad guys or at least for the Apaches by the end. Surely the woman would have been better off if she had hooked up with one of the Indians rather than a white gunman she didn't love and who would never really respect her as a person.

Fredrick Danysh says

Wounded in a feud with the Suttons, Trace Jordon flees into the desert where he collapses. He is found by the beautiful Maria and learns that her family has also suffered at the hands of the Suttons. As they try to escape through the desert they also have to contend with the Apache.

Mason Marquette says

Personal Response

I thought the book *The Burning Hills* was good. It had lots of action, and it had a good story. The book had lots of suspense, and wherever you stopped reading something else was going to happen. The author does a great job of making you wonder what is going to happen next. There is also a lot of action and fighting. If you are into romance the book has some between Trace Jordan and Maria Christiana. I liked the end of the book because it is something you never saw coming.

Plot Summary

The book starts off by Trace Jordan being chased but you do not know why he is being chased. You do not learn why he is being chased until further into the book, and that makes you want to keep reading. Then Jordan runs into the girl, and she helps him even though you do not know what really is going on. The book then leaves you with another cliff hanger by making you wonder if Maria will meet Trace after he runs away. They end up meeting each other but they go through a lot of action and fighting to get away. For example when Maria gets kidnapped Trace has to find the Apaches and rescue her. They then escape but the bad guys catch up to them and they have the last fight. Finally after the last fight they realize the reason why they are fighting is worthless. They then stop fighting and help each other.

Recommendation

I would recommend this book to mostly boys in grades seven through ten. Girls who are into action might also enjoy this book, and they maybe would like the romance. The book does have some times where it gets a little bloody. If you are not a fan of gore there might be some spots in the book you do not like. If you are someone who does not like reading you would enjoy this because there is always some action going on.

Dustin Reade says

More wonderfully descriptive writing that made me want to watch westerns for the rest of the week. My only problem was with the female lead character. Sometimes she spoke with a stereotypical mexican accent: "I will keel you!" "You will be keel!" and sometimes she didn't: "They killed my father!"

It was distracting at times, but so what. I mean, I don't really care about anything.

I am a nihilist!

Mike says

As a kid I loved westerns. Somewhere along the line I completely lost touch with the genre while exploring sci-fi, fantasy, history, historical fiction.....etc. One of my ex-bosses was a serious L'Amour fan so he was always in the back of my mind to check out. A promo on amazon kindle was the spark and I am so glad I did. It might not be high literature but it certainly took me back more than a few years in a short and captivating journey. I'm hooked

Berry Muhl says

My second L'Amour, and I'm thinking I might eventually work my way through his whole catalog.

There's really not a whole lot of depth to the characterizations. The novel's lone woman is the standout in terms of personality and temperament. L'Amour's male characters tend toward laconism and machismo, as you'd expect from men of that era. This story at least shows a bit more moral ambiguity than the previous outing. Not all the bad guys are truly bad.

It's his knowledge of the time, and of the outdoors, that really sell his stories. He writes like he was there when these events took place, and he nails the reasoning that the characters use when utilizing features of nature for survival. There are odd, very minute anachronisms that come up from time to time, such as basing a rationale on a man's subconscious mind. The subconscious as a psychological concept wouldn't come up for some 40 or 50 years after the events in this novel. But then again, the character's subconscious-based actions wouldn't necessarily have to be aware of the existence of the subconscious, would they? Still, if I were writing this novel, I'd have left the word out of it altogether, just to keep the story in its proper time.

This story was written about a year after my previous read, *Crossfire Trail*, and during the first half of the book I couldn't help but think he had reverted to a more primitive style. There are no breaks between sections of a chapter. This can be irritating because he mentions his character names infrequently, typically in the first paragraph of a section, right after jump-cutting to a different scene. If you're tired or easily distracted you can easily lose track of who you're reading about. This problem is rectified in the second half, though.

It's otherwise a great read.

David says

An early L'Amour novel, a little leaner and grittier than his later books. An entertaining chase story from the master.
