



From the Listening Hills

Louis L'Amour

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In peerless fiction spanning five decades and as many continents, Louis L'Amour has proven himself the preeminent storyteller of the American experience. Whether set aboard a ship trapped in enemy seas or amidst a showdown in the deserts of Death Valley, his stories brilliantly capture the heroic and indomitable spirit of our great land.

From The Listening Hills

The twelve stories in this collection--appearing for the first time in one complete volume--run the spectrum of human emotions as they transport us from the fading majesty of the Old West to a small-town football field to the lonely canyons of one man's mind. These classic tales of adventure, mystery, mysticism, and suspense epitomize the uniquely American yearning for connection and roots, justice and love, as only L'Amour can. Here is a diverse group of heroes and traitors, outlaws and lawmen, the innocent, the guilty, and those who operate in the shadowy territory outside the reach of justice.

The wastelands of Death Valley form the backdrop for the tale of a desperate man who leads his pursuers into a desert trap--where heat and thirst are his only weapons. A rodeo rider framed for a crime he didn't commit takes a wild ride on a legendary bronco that may help him catch the real killers. An American pilot flies Russian and British agents into the labyrinthine forests of Asiatic Russia--only to discover that one of them is a traitor. A hit man discovers the fatal limits of friendship; and a quest for revenge becomes a frantic race to find a cache of gold hidden in the drifting sands of the Southwest. And in a powerful and moving parable, an Indian boy must lead his family across a drought-ravaged land with nothing to guide him but his faith.

The gripping title story counts down the final hours of a wounded man struggling to fend off his enemies and certain death. Before time runs out, he must finish the most important task of his life: a letter to his unborn son that will vindicate the family name. Filled with a special brand of passion and drama, **From the Listening Hills** is an exemplary collection that showcases the enduring talents of one of America's most beloved authors.

From the Hardcover edition.

From the Listening Hills Details

Date : Published (first published 2003)

ISBN :

Author : Louis L'Amour

Format : Kindle Edition 208 pages

Genre : Westerns, Fiction, Short Stories, Adventure



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From Reader Review From the Listening Hills for online ebook

Frank says

Short stories. Usually I don't care for the short stories. Most of these were not too bad, however.

Chuck says

An unusual Louis L'Amour book. Thought it was a western but turned out to be a collection of short stories published by his family 15 or 16 years after his death. The unusual part was that many of the stories were not westerns and they included the best of the lot. Some were excellent and others tedious, but with this rating it is obvious that tedious won out.

Srinivas Ramanujam says

I was hoping for a gritty bunch of stories but some of them didn't captivate me. I particularly didn't care for the WW II tale of the Japanese spy. The highlight was the tale about the Tremayne clan. It was so sad that I stopped reading the book for a while. Had to make an effort to pick up the book again. That was my favourite. The rest were forgettable.

An Odd1 says

*** "From the Listening Hills" is twelve short stories by Louis L'Amour, mostly clever courage under hard circumstances. I enjoyed all the classic western action, except the title tragedy of a whole family persecuted and decimated by a rumor-monger villain. Two memorable unique crime tales, both with deceptive females, are in another collection too. "Sand Trap" tells about an ex-soldier framed for murder by a honey trap dame and her lover. The lone hero cleverly and expertly uses the desert to try to elicit confessions from the citified perpetrators. "Anything for a Pal" sadly shows the wages of sin. A mob assassin shoots one last victim set to testify against a jailed associate, and dreams of resigning to live in peace with his only family, a protected innocent younger brother [spoiler: who turns out to be the informer mark pointed out by their lady of the night]. I skipped strictly boxing and football detailed recitals, out of my league. Quasi-nativity natives in a maybe religious moral left me flat. Stirring plots about wartime espionage boil the blood, but confuse in terminology. Did people really call amphibian planes - "ships"?

John Bruni says

Another superb collection of short stories from my favorite classic western writer. People forget what a diverse writer L'Amour was. They just remember the westerns. There are some great crime stories in here, and some pretty good war stories. My favorite was probably "Sand Trap," in which a guy who is framed for murder turns the tables on the real murderer by using the forces of nature against her. Then there's "Anything

for a Pal," about a hitman with some family issues. I loved "Murphy Plays His Hand," about a gold digger who strikes it rich only to have to fend for himself against a band of gold-hungry cutthroats. And then there's "Too Tough to Kill," in which a witness for the defense is left for dead by the murderer he was about to convict, the murderer who has also kidnapped his wife. L'Amour was a hell of a writer. I'm glad there's a huge backlog of his work. The only ones I didn't like were the football stories, but then again, I really don't care for sports.

Jack says

An interesting posthumous collection of short stories by Master Storyteller, Louis L'Amour. If you think that all he wrote was "cowboy stories" and westerns, you've not read his works. Too many people I know will scoff when they see me reading one of his books, but I learned a lot about writing a good story from L'Amour and Heinlein. Here, I've rediscovered the joy of a good short-story!

Ryan Mishap says

My dad loves all his books and I read over a hundred while staving off the night terrors when growing up.

It is a strange fact about the old west, Indians, and the genocidal take over of the land now called the United States that fiction writing about them is often taken for truth (see Ward Churchill's Fantasies of the Master Race). The back of almost every L'Amour novel lauds his knowledge of "how it really was" and the fact that he could've been one of the tough, honorable, lonely fighting men he wrote about. This is complete crap. L'Amour was a seller of fantasy, of lies, and of ideals that white men like to think they possess. He uses Indians simultaneously as "noble warriors" and "bloodthirsty savages" and justifies the take over of their land with the old "their time was passing..." illogic--as if there wasn't an agent behind their passing. Reading one of his novels, one gets the feeling he never did any research required of historical novels. Details are always vague. Little reference is made to historical events, ways of doing things, or period details that would lend credence to his imaginings. His stories could just as easily been set on Mars for all the research that shows through his writing. But Americans are already disposed to believing all this romantic Old West bullshit, so you don't have to try very hard. When a writer taps into our national myths, they don't have to be accurate or true, because most of our national myths are lies already believed.

Mary Ann says

This was a fun read of several short stories. My favorite was the "Backfield Battering Ram" and interesting and enjoyable football story.

Angie says

Vintage Louis L'Amour. Very well done.

Tracy says

This collection of short stories literally kicked butt. It's like going to the movies and watching a series of action scenes. There's football, westerns, spies, gangsters, basically a little something for everyone.

Louis L'Amour writes action better than anyone I've ever read. His descriptions are less descriptive, but somehow your imagination can see it even better. The author manages to cram enough backstory into the narrative so when the fight comes, you're cheering for the good guy. His characters have grit, maybe even righteousness. And they keep going until the battle is won.

Dudley Stadler says

I was surprised to read various stories from an author who I thought of as a western author. He wrote about war, sports and westerns in this anthology of 12 stories. It is an easy read and enjoyable.

Peter Charleston says

Nice collection of short stories by Louis L'Amour. Some WWII, westerns of course along with old time football. Enjoyed the read.

Cameron says

I love his short stories, some OK some awesome. Forever a fan of his shorts. Not a fan of his westerns but I do love him.

Devin Lamb says

I read the short story Sand Trap

Symbolism

The stolen money is an important item in the story. The stolen money is one of the first objects that the readers sees. Monte Jackson wakes up covered in it. But most importantly, is what the stolen money symbolizes.

The stolen money symbolizes the trouble that Monte is "covered" in at the beginning of the story: "He lurched to his knees sending a flurry of twenty and one hundred dollar bills to the floor." So, how does one escape this type of situation?

Ash's gun is in the story from beginning to end. It may not seem to be there but it is. The gun represents murder, fraud, heartbreak, and violence. In the story Ash tries to use the gun against Monte Jackson.

Monte Jackson's rifle is only used in the second half of the story. The rifle is used by Monte to defend himself from Ash and Paula. The rifle represents freedom and justice. The rifle in some cases but maybe not

the story can represent violence.

Jackson's canteen is also only used in the end of the story. Jackson uses the canteen as torture. Monte lets Paula and Ash get a lot of thirst in the middle of the desert. He uses the canteen to get what he wants from the, confession letters. He says that he will give them water after the letters are written. The canteen represents torture, intelligence, and freedom as well.

Fredrick Danysh says

A collection of twelve of L'Amour's short stories. Topics range from Westerns to football to Japanese activity in the Pacific prior to World War II. They are told in L'Amour's straight forward style.
