



Rivers West

Louis L'Amour

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His dream was to build magnificent steamboats to ply the rivers of the American frontier. But when Jean Talon began his journey westward, he stumbled upon a deadly conspiracy involving a young woman's search to find her missing brother, and a ruthless band of renegades. Led by the brazen Baron Torville, this makeshift army of opportunists is plotting a violent takeover of the Louisiana Territory. Jean swears to find a way to stop this daring plan. If he doesn't, it will not only put an end to all his dreams; it will change the course of history—and destroy the promise of the American frontier.

From the Paperback edition.

Rivers West Details

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Author : Louis L'Amour

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From Reader Review Rivers West for online ebook

Todd Coburn says

This is another fine story of the American frontier by Louis L'Amour.

When L'Amour writes, I feel the bite of the wind on my skin, smell the wet, broken grass at my feet, and feel the mud suck at my feet as I creep through swamp, forest or plain with his characters.

L'Amour's men are strong, steadfast, just, unyielding in the face of danger, and clever. They are quick to think and act, and often ponder the philosophy of law and order, justice, and history. His women are beautiful and intelligent.

This story is another fine one, where a young Talon, descended from a pirate, takes a detour from pursuing his fortune to help a beautiful young woman and to save his new country from a plot to steal the Louisiana Purchase by a rogue Baron Torville.

Great story. Classic L'Amour. Enjoy.

Karl Jorgenson says

L'Amour (can we call him: Louis the Love?) is a fantastic adventure writer. This story takes place in the early 19th century with people, good and bad, flooding west into the newly aquired Louisiana Purchase. Our hero gets wind of a plot to seize the new territory and is beset by thugs and assassins as he moves west. It's simple, clear, and entertaining.

Thomas C.Curtis says

Sometimes we must do what is correct despite the fact it doesn't help us in our own personal endeavors. This book bespeaks truth as it focuses on what should be done.

Gary Butler says

56th book read in 2014.

Number 130 out of 399 on my all time book list.

Follow the link below to see my video review:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qg4nT...>

Mgsmith says

Pulp reads of the very best kind.

The Talon family is one of 3 family lines that Louis L'Amour began and as I understand intended to write sagas on.

Young Mr. Talon begins his life as any good hero should, helping someone in desperate need; and like all true heroes stepping square into the middle of trouble.

This book is based in the early times of our great country (yes I am a patriot). It is based loosely on a known plot of the time to use the natives to wrest a portion of the United States away and create a kingdom. Enough spoilers; read and enjoy

Dallin Perry says

Enjoyable read. Quick adventure.

Aaron Toponce says

This is a hard read to get through. In reality, the story doesn't feel edited, or even finished for that matter. Jean Daniel Talon is a shipwright, and loves working with his hands. Of course, he's muscular, solid, the best wrestler in town, and can box better than the best. Standard, typical L'Amour character. Not a flaw in him.

First, the plot doesn't seem thought through. The Bad Guys are going to steal the Louisiana Territory for themselves. Except, you don't really know who is who. Miss Margoriebanks is a brat, but you don't clearly know where her position lies, although she's looking for her brother. Charles Margoriebanks is missing, somehow tied in with the Bad Guys, although it's never really made clear how, but crucial to the conflict. Then he just shows up and the end of the book.

Of course, as is typical L'Amour, the book just sort of ... ends. No real conclusion to any conflicts or plot devices. Just an ending. It's so abrupt, it's clear that there was no editing to the story, to flush out details, stretch the resolution out, and explain characters and why they're important.

Really, this book just feels like a rough draft. It's got the framework in place for a good story, but it doesn't have any of the careful attention to detail to make it one. It's rough around the edges, abrupt in conclusions, ambiguous in character development, full of plot holes, and really quite tiring.

Yeah, this is probably the worst I've read of his to date.

Werner says

Louis L'Amour, of course, is a quintessential American popular novelist and short story writer, the leading

name in the modern Western genre, an author whose phenomenal sales the world over are generally conceded to reflect his genuine ability as a storyteller. He's also my wife Barb's favorite writer. So it's perhaps surprising that this is the first of his novels that I've read. However, it definitely won't be the last!

This is not, in terms of length, one of L'Amour's major novels. One of the longer works, because of the larger scope, would probably have been more textured and allowed for more character development. However, for this read I wanted a shorter work. I also wanted something that's not part of a series, though according to the Goodreads entry this one is. That designation can be a bit misleading, though; according to Barb, the Talons and Chantrys, like the Sacketts, are large extended fictional families that the author often recurs to, in one area or generation or another, but the individual books are mostly themselves essentially free-standing. Here, our hero occasionally makes some passing reference to his great-grandfather, the founder of his family line (who no doubt has a book or books devoted to him!); but this story can certainly be read independently. This is also not really a "Western," despite L'Amour's identification with the genre (and I didn't "shelve" it as such). He wrote similar tales of two-fisted adventure in other settings, both historical and contemporary; this is the former, with most of the plot taking place well east of the Mississippi and probably none of it any further west than present-day Missouri. Also, our time-frame is 1821, well before the era of westward expansion that forms the typical Western setting. (If our characters here pack guns, they're flintlock rifles or pistols, not Colts; and nobody's into cattle-punching.) It also has elements of the mystery or espionage thriller; the British officer in the Goodreads description above was trailing a British felon and Army deserter who's conspiring to seize the Louisiana Territory and set himself up as dictator of it.

As I noted above, I think this novel might have been better at longer length, with more development. Sometimes the hero's reflections have a bit too much repetitive angst over his course of action; Tabitha Majoribanks, while she's a smart, brave and strong-willed heroine, can come across as a bit too arrogant and bossy; and I felt the ending was too rushed. Also, while L'Amour mostly did his historical homework (a hallmark of his writing), I did catch him in a couple of slight errors in the dating of actual events that are mentioned in passing. That's why this wasn't rated as a four-star read.

It did, however, earn a solid three, meaning that I did genuinely like it. L'Amour has a good writing style, one that serves to move the flow of events without calling attention to itself; he's a capital storyteller, and the book's a page-turner. His characters are mostly vivid, and Jean (Anglicized as John) Daniel Talon is the kind of hero who commands my respect. Another strength of the book is the fact that L'Amour clearly values what someone (I think T. S. Eliot) has called "the permanent things" --the verities that truly matter for human life and society. So I'm delighted to finally have made his acquaintance as a novelist (I'd read his short story, "The Gift of Cochise," which I highly recommend, some years ago), and look forward to someday reading some of his more substantial works!

Damian says

I was not that big of a fan of this book. This book was to slow paced for me. I got lost a lot too. I love Louis L'Amour and have read some of his books that have been really good. My favorite part is the wrestling match. Miss Majoribanks I think was a influence on Jean Talon.

Angie Lisle says

The memories are what I love most about this book. I remember my grandpa - a fan of boxing and wrestling - reading this book to us grand kids while my male cousins acted out the action scenes. They loved it. I did not. I disliked the main female character, Ms. Marjoriebanks, for being a snot-nosed brat (I refused to act her part). I was apathetic to the main male character, Jean Daniel Talon, because he doesn't feel complete (and that's probably why I don't like Marjoriebanks either, L'Amour didn't bother to build her up to who she should have been). My feelings haven't changed much as an adult.

This book isn't finished. It feels like I'm reading a rough draft instead of a finalized novel. Maybe that's why my cousins enjoyed it so much, it's incompleteness allowed them to insinuate themselves as they acted out fight scenes, but it's hard for someone like me to read. I think about how much better this book could be, if it wasn't so bare.

As a child, my grandpa told me I was clever when I pointed out that the text is repetitive. I appreciate that memory. But I still feel like L'Amour skimped out. He used a lot of key words without giving a real description. He tells without showing.

The bones for a good story are here. L'Amour, acting out of character, missed multiple opportunities to work in real history; instead, he focused on this imaginary scheme he fictioned up and this scheme feels bare because it has no history to back it up. Like the main characters, the villains aren't complete either. We hear about them more than we see them. L'Amour doesn't build suspense for the big whammy he tells us about at the rushed ending.

I don't even know who to blame for it - L'Amour for pushing this through to publication or the publisher for letting it go to publication as is. If the estate of L'Amour ever gets around to publishing more of his work, the first thing they should do is hire a ghostwriter to finish fleshing out this book. I want to read *that* book in memoriam to my grandfather.

Steven says

Pretty standard L'Amour fare. Not bad, but nothing special. It all seemed to wrap up a little too quickly and neatly for me.

Oleta Blaylock says

Mr. L'Amour packed a lot of plot twists into this story and I wonder if he had a page limit from the publisher. Now my book was only 149 pages but there are others that are 190+ pages. Did I miss something along the way? This is a quick read with lots of history and a number of fights and wrestling matches. Now most of the time I have no problem with the characters in Mr. L'Amour's stories. Most of the people in his books are down to earth people just trying to make a better life for themselves and their families. They are honest, hardworking people that has a wonderful philosophy. I can't say that about Miss Tabitha Majoribanks. She is a tagamet if there ever was one. She looks down her nose at everyone and won't listen to those that might know more than she does. Yes her father was able to put together a great network of information but no one knows everything. I some ways she is a bully.

Now Jean Talon I liked. He just wants to create things from wood. He wants to build riverboats that can go

up and down the Missouri River trading with the Indians and picking up furs from the trappers. Boats that will take people to settle along the Missouri and father in land. He is a craftsman and he loves what he does. He is cautious of the friends he makes and is ready to fight when evil tries to take over.

This is a good story and I think that most of Louis L'Amour's fans will enjoy it.

Randy Grossman says

Typically very good story by L'Amour...if any drawbacks, I suppose it ended rather abruptly, possibly could have used an epilogue. If there are more stories with these characters, I would enjoy reading them. I was very interested in the use of a frontier Pittsburgh, PA since I am from this area of Pennsylvania. It is rare that I do not thoroughly enjoy stories by L'Amour.

Daniel Petersen says

My first pulp western! I enjoyed it. The first-person narration of hyper-masculinity had the hilarious result of sometimes coming across unintentionally homo-erotic. The narrator was always talking about the impressive buff build of himself and half the other blokes he came across. Interestingly, in terms of action/heroic stuff this novel was focused more on wrestling (yes, wrestling) than gunfighter scenes. Indeed, the narrator went on so much about his own massive muscular endowment that I started to picture him as Conan the Cowboy. The viewpoint was slightly racist toward American Indians ('I grew up with 'em, I have no problem with 'em, even though a lot of 'em will scalp you as likely as not if you don't keep an eye on 'em' etc.) - which was surprising considering the date of publication. This particular tale was very French-Canadian/French-American oriented with the American's typical habit of investing anything European with an aura of gravitas and automatic integrity. An interesting little cast of characters - light on landscape and general setting, expecting readers to bring their studio-erected western locale with them, I suspect. I resonated with some of the views of masculinity and good craftsmanship and so on, but by no means without qualification - and would out and out reject some of the values. Anyway, I look forward to checking out more from L'Amour. (See what I did there?)

Tom says

The first 3/4 of the book set up a pretty interesting story and characters. L'Amour novels generally don't have long and drawn out endings, but this one probably had the most abrupt ending of any book I've ever read. This is a rare book that probably should have been 100 pages LONGER.
