



Showdown At Yellow Butte

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Tom Kedrick earned his stripes during the Civil War, fought Apaches, and even soldiered overseas. But in the high desert country of New Mexico, the battle-hardened Kedrick is entangled in a different kind of war, fueled by greed and deception. Hired by Alton Burwick to drive a pack of renegades and outlaws off the government land recently set aside for an Indian reservation, Kedrick begins to notice that things are not as they seem. As his suspicions grow, he realizes that he may be fighting on the wrong side of a land swindle. Disillusioned and outraged, Kedrick must take action against the very people who hired him—or be forced to witness the bloody massacre of innocent men and women.

From the Paperback edition.

Showdown At Yellow Butte Details

Date : Published (first published 1953)

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Author : Louis L'Amour , Jim Mayo

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From Reader Review Showdown At Yellow Butte for online ebook

Les says

Good story. L'Amour deserves the following he has. If I knew more about guns, some of this would make more sense to me. I just can't tell, from a description of the guns they carry, which fighter has the advantage. This was fun, and the next time I'm in the mood for some light reading, I may pick up another L'Amour.

I finally borrowed this book from a friend, since I couldn't find it in bookstores. I'm about halfway through. So far, so good. Never having read a western before, I was surprised to find that the plot reminds me of other authors I've read--a little romance, a little political intrigue, a little adventure, and a LOT more gunfighting than I'm used to.

Samuel says

I have read all of Louis L'Amour's books at least once, and some of them I have read several times. They have become, for me, a vacation. After weeks and months of reading things for work--or even pleasure--there's just nothing like settling in for a couple evenings of a Louis L'Amour story. The writing is so crisp, the storytelling so straightforward.

So a few nights ago I was looking for something to read and the library was closed, so I went over to my Louis L'Amour shelf (all of them in hardback!) and started looking for a title I hadn't read in a while, I settled on "Showdown at Yellow Butte".

Tom Kedrick, soldier for hire, had been brought in by a friend to help a respectable company clear out the squatters on their land. When Kedrick gets there (NE Arizona and NW New Mexico), he discovers that the "team" he is to lead against the squatters is made up of killers, cutthroats and general, all-around, nasty people. Kedrick begins to suspect he has been hired for a job he doesn't want to do. As he begins to learn who the nesters really are, he is convinced that they are in the right and the company is trying to a) drive out honest, hard-working people; and b) defraud their own government.

While this novel contains many of the familiar L'Amour archetypes, it varies from form in that one of the cardinal virtues of a Louis L'Amour story is to "ride for the brand". Kedrick, however, is willing to go against that maxim in obedience to a higher calling on his conscience.

Dale Rosso says

Great read from a great author.

Deborah Boutwell says

I listened to this one and quickly realized that it was the same story as Showdown at the Hogback. I like the

narrator for that version better than this one.

Bruce says

This is the second book that Louis L'Amour wrote under his own name (the seventh book he had published). I liked "Hondo" better, but this one was very good. Reading L'Amour is a way of experiencing the Old West as it was (except perhaps for the blinding speed of all the gunslingers). You learn so much about the times, and the story is always a good one. This is another good read by L'Amour. Recommend it to all who are fans of Westerns.

Jeff Dickison says

An early L'Amour originally written under the pen-name of Jim Mayo. Man is hired to run out some squatters but quickly realizes he is on the wrong side. This early book is not quite up to the standards that L'Amour would later set, but it is still fairly good. Recommended to western fans.

Judge says

Liked this one. Only drawback I found was there were a lot of characters that I felt were added in rather quickly. At times I was a little a loss for who was who on some of the minor characters. Besides that, it was another good Louis L'Amour book.

Shawn says

I needed a dose of a good western tale to listen to while butchering a deer. I knew I couldn't go wrong with a Louis L'Amour story.

Nolan says

Tom Kedrick is a fighter. No, he's not the type to loudly brag about his prowess with a gun, but he doesn't fear a hard fight when he has no choice. He has come to town from New Orleans, and he's a veteran of the war between the states. Tom has been hired to evict squatters on land that belongs to the Burwick Land Company. It looks like a simple cut-and-dry done-deal kind of job. He helps evict those who aren't legally supposed to be there, he gets paid, and it's on to another town somewhere. But things are never as simple as they initially seem. Tom is immediately smitten by the lovely Connie, who is new to town herself, and who provides Tom with a second more detailed look at the squatters—a second look that makes him begin to recognize he's on the wrong side of the battle.

Ok, so this is a pretty formulaic horse opera. I haven't read one of these in years. There is the silly insta-love thing between Tom and Connie; I never understood why someone with L,Amour's talents would fall back on

simplified insta-love techniques, but so he does in this book.

What's to recommend it? The author skillfully reminds his readers that things are rarely as they appear to be in the first glance, and that's a reminder well worth having. As is often the case with these simple westerns, villains are particularly villainous (often fat, slovenly men of wealth and power), and heroes are particularly virtuous. But you aren't reading this as part of a graduate-school in-depth English final. This is designed to be a quick read that moves you on to the next book. It's an action-packed somewhat suspenseful book, and you'll enjoy that feel-good ending.

Massanutten Regional Library says

Roger, Village patron, June 2018, 5 stars:

Tom Kedrick, mercenary soldier/cowboy, finds himself possibly on the wrong side of a politically infused range war.

Greg says

A pretty good L'amour book, very much in keeping with his usual western adventures. Most of L'amour's usual suspects are here: the tough-but-fair gunslinging hero, the too-good-to-be-true well-bred, super-refined woman who has learned to love the land of the West (the northern New Mexico desert in this one), even the sketchy lass who wants nothing more than to get the heck out of this God-forsaken place and will sidle up to anyone who can promise a ticket back East.

It's got a bit of mystery, and a cast of tough common folk unfairly branded as outlaws by the money-grabbing bigwigs of the territory. Of course, as is generally the case with L'amour, the day is saved, the good guy gets the girl, and the bad guys either learn the error of their ways or get a pistol slug for their crimes. Nothing too surprising here, but a fun little read.

April says

I love these Louis L'Amour stories. They start quickly, and the characters are interesting!

Steve Kendrick says

Like all of Lous L'Amour book's this was a fun read. He is so descriptive and makes reading his books very fun. This was a fun and easy read.

Rob Smith says

I noticed this with a few other L'Amour books I've read: Within twenty pages the reader finds themselves dumped in a sea of names with little to no background as to who they are. In this case it was worse for a couple names are similar. Worse, as the book goes on, some switch from good to bad and vice versa. Many characters are hardly explained throughout the book except for what side they are. I had trouble keeping track of who was through throughout the book. Here's further credit I can give for the William Johnstone clan and their westerns that are often peppered with lots of characters as I've yet to get so confused.

However, I thought the story was a good one even if I did get lost at times. There's a good mystery that can keep you guessing until the end and plenty of shootouts. I kinda wish L'Amour had done more with series, because I do like the main character, Kedrick, and wish there was more of him. Especially outside the Western genre as referred to in the book.

Pamela Joy says

The story was fairly good. The characters weren't nearly as good as the characters in the previous book Hondo.
