

Strong Ambitions

G.P. Hutchinson

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Tiny, yet prospering Benficklin, Texas, wants a clean and respectable town marshal to guard their pristine community from the kind of riffraff that turned neighboring Santa Angela into a raucous string of blood-spattered saloons and bawdy sporting houses. Former Texas Ranger Emmett Strong seems to be just the man Benficklin's town fathers are looking for, once they're satisfied that his Chinese wife, Li, is "sufficiently civilized."

But Benficklin doesn't want to pay a deputy. That leaves Emmett's sidekick, Juanito, with little choice but to take his own bride, the former saloon girl Geneve, up the road to Santa Angela, looking for honest work in a crooked town.

Reputations aside, it turns out that Benficklin—not Santa Angela—is the town with the next scandal on its hands. Only days after Emmett's arrival, he steps out first thing in the morning to find a dozen men standing in the middle of the street, all in a dither over the ravaged, scantily clad body of a young, murdered Mexican girl who's been left lying there in the dirt. Initial indications suggest hard-drinking cowboy Quirt Langdon may have done the dirty work.

It doesn't take long, however, for Emmett to sense that things aren't exactly as they appear. Fort Concho's Captain Roderick Prentiss seems peculiarly interested in what is clearly a civilian case. The debonair—if somewhat eccentric—gambler Nate Chaffin, who has taken up residence in Santa Angela, gives the impression that he knows things he's not telling. And to top it all off, Benficklin's mayor and first lady end up assassinated in their own backyard.

While local officials pressure Emmett to hastily hang either a suspect or a scapegoat, honor drives the former Ranger to seek true justice for the poor murdered girl, as well as for the mayor and his wife. Ill-tempered townsfolk, pilfered evidence, and somebody taking potshots at him and his wife make Emmett wonder whether he'll live to unravel the mystery or become the next corpse folks find in the dusty streets of Benficklin

Strong Ambitions Details

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From Reader Review Strong Ambitions for online ebook

Melinda M says

Strong Ambitions by G.P. Hutchinson is book 3 of the Emmett Strong Westerns series. Emmett Strong cannot help but brings justice to wherever he is. This time he ends up in Benficklin and within a few days has more murders then one would except in a quiet town. Emmett's wife, brother -in-law and sister -in-law are with him and help to solve the mystery. It is a classic western in that you have the good guys, the bad guys and those in between. It is well written. The characters continue to grow and evolve. G. P. Hutchinson pays attention to details with his characters and with the time period and keeps true to the Western theme. The story keeps you involved and wanting to find out what happens next as well as what will Emmett and crew do to solve the many issues they have and the murders. I have read all of the series but each book does well as a stand alone. Reading the other books will give you a better understanding of the whole story, it is a story that is worth your time.

I received an ARC for my honest opinion. I was looking forward to this story and was not disappointed.

Bonnye Reed says

GNab G. P. Hutchinson brings us an excellent historical western set in Texas in September 1881. The novel is a quick read filled with people easy to respect and understand and a solid storyline. The third in a series peopled with Emmett and his wife Li, and Juanito and his wife Geneve, this story is completely stand alone but awakens and interest in reading the background of this foursome in the preceding novels. Hutchinson is an author I will watch for. This area of Southwest Texas is not often focused on in our novels and tales. West of the Hill Country, East of the dry high plains desert, and north of the coastal plains, Tom Green County is lovely and green, a little microcosm hidden among the better known parts of Texas. A fine place to visit, in person or in this excellent book.

I received a free electronic copy of this western novel from Netgalley, G. P. Hutchinson, and CreateSpace Publishing Platform in exchange for an honest review. Thank you all for sharing your hard work with me. The cover photo of exceptional custom leatherwork is perfect for this work, as is this novel itself. Enjoyed this experience.

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John Shearer says

Strong Ambition's (3)

This is a good read. The story is quite confusing and twisted - although in a good way. Even though the story is straight foreword it still has the taste of a good mystery.

D. E. says

The 3rd Novel in the Emmett Strong Westerns/EL Paso/San Angela/Beckinfield

YOU has penned the 3rd western in the Emmett Strong Westerns. Emmett and his brother-in-law decide that EL Paso does not enjoy the law techniques of the two men. They resign and move to Beckinfield to protect their wives from vicious rumors started by the alleged quality ladies of EL Paso. In Their next town they become embroiled in three murders. This is an excellent read for the genre.....ER

Jamie says

WOW GP has done it again! I certainly didn't see that coming in the mystery, I can Not wait to see where Emmett and Li along with Juan and Geneve end up Next!! Good Work GP!