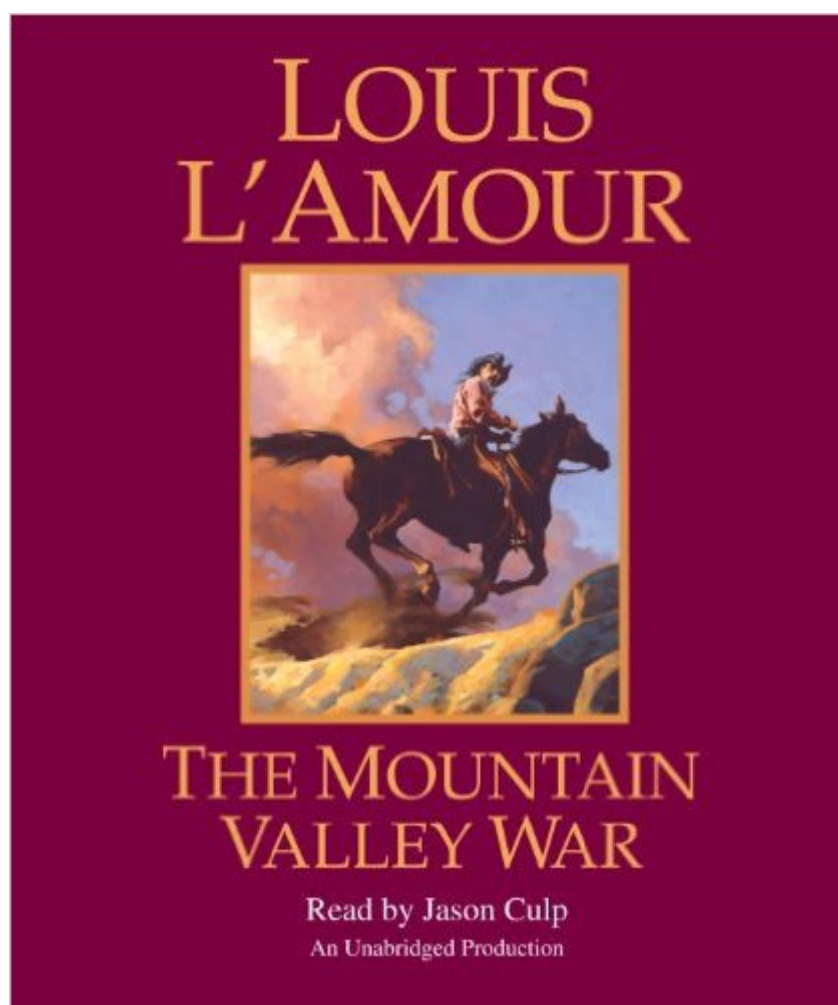


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The Mountain Valley War



Synopsis

Holed up in a cabin in the Idaho hills, the mysterious man who called himself Trent wasn't looking for trouble. It came looking for him. A trigger-happy kid named Cub Hale emptied his gun into an unarmed man. Then he came swaggering after Trent. The girl who ran the gambling hall tried to get him to hightail it. But Trent wasn't buying. Even in that forsaken back country, he knew when a man had to speak with his shooting iron.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Mountain Valley War was first published (paper) back in 5/78. I bought my copy published 2/79. As always I read the book with-in the next day or so. so it's been about 23 yrs. gone by. I always write a short note in the book describing my opinions. It seems as if I was overjoyed with the book as I wrote "what a fabulous story", or was it, I'd been dreaming and placing myself in the lead character's shoes, something I do often. Louis's books are fabulous. If you don't find that to be so you might not like any westerns.

Trent thought he could settle down quietly and avoid his old reputation as a gun fighter, but deep down he knew it was only a matter of time before trouble came to him. Sure enough, he found himself in a Mountain Valley War on the side of the minority. The minority is a majority when they find out who Trent really is! He is non other than Kilkenny, the fastest gun around and the greatest fighter too. Before it is over, he'll have to prove it. Check this book out. L'Amour is especially good at describing the fight scene and he does it expertly in this saga of old west fiction.

I am reading L'amour for the first time and all in a mix depending on which books I get hold of first. I was a bit disappointed with this one. I like the funny wry novels better than the serious/gunfighter ones - and this falls into the serious gunfighter genre, it seems. IN this second book Kilkenny has drifted to Idaho into the mountains and properly filed for some land himself. Unfortunately he and his fellow 'nesters' have aroused the ire of the local land baron, 'King' Hale. Hale hadn't been interested in the land until the nesters came along, now he is ruthlessly driving them out aided by his violent son 'cub' and the tacit help of some of the locals including a shop owner who refuses to sell them any goods. Kilkenny now calls himself Trent and doesn't want to be drawn into anything he doesn't have to, but unfortunately it is brought to his door, his neighbour is ruthlessly murdered and his children hunted. They escape to Trent's cabin and then Trent himself is threatened. He refuses to budge but joins up with the other nesters and fights for what is his. What I liked about this book and other L'amours is that people are generally not simply black and white. Some of Hale's men are actually good men and they recognise in Trent a similar spirit which makes the action more complicated and richer for it. Also within the nesters there is Cain Brockman, whose brother Abel was killed by Kilkenny/Trent and has sworn revenge. Cain is a good man who fell in with a bad lot now Trent has to use his persuasive powers to convince Cain of this. Like I said this is a rich and complex novel, a good easy read to take up an afternoon.

The second of the three novels about Lance Kilkenny, a man with an unwanted reputation as a gunfighter, now he's got himself a small piece of land, a few head of cattle and has hung up his guns. A good novel, though personally I favour the other two Kilkenny novels ("The Rider of Lost Creek" and "Kilkenny") but this one is not far behind. It's obvious that L'Amour knows his characters well, like all good writers for any medium should. Here Kilkenny finds he has to defend his land, and organise his neighbours, in a small war against a power mad cattle baron.

I have read over 80 of L'Amour's books, and this one was terrific! If you've read (and liked) Kilkenny, then you'll love this one, too. Kilkenny is a fascinating character in this book, and L'Amour has given him quite the brain to defeat the Hale gang. A must read!!!

Read my comments on The Rider of Lost Creek as I strongly recommend oneread that book first before The Mountain Valley War. Both are well written and can do well on their own, but I prefer to begin at the beginning.

Louis L'Amour wrote dozens of stories with non-reoccurring characters. The hero would appear in one book never to be seen again. On the other side was almost two dozen novels about the Sackett family. The Sackett books spanned several generations. In between these Louis L'Amour had a few characters that popped up in various novels and short stories. Kilkenny was one such. There were three novels and three short stories about Kilkenny. For some reason Kilkenny is one of my favorite Louis L'Amour characters. He had many of the traditional traits: fast with a gun, a good fist fighter, smart, stood up for justice and for most of the stories he rode off into the sunset, alone. "The Mountain Valley War" is the last Kilkenny novel. Once again our hero is minding his own business. He is up in the mountains of Idaho building up a small ranch. Then a cattle baron starts pushing his weight around. He wants more land, and he kills for it. Kilkenny gets involved and rallies to the side of the small settlers. In addition to all that, trouble has followed him from the story of "The Rider of Lost Creek." We have lots of gun battles and some fist fights. The action just moves from page to page. Personally I recommend you start with "Kilkenny" and "The Rider of Lost Creek" before reading "The Mountain Valley War." But if you like Louis L'Amour or westerns in general you can jump straight to "The Mountain Valley War."

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