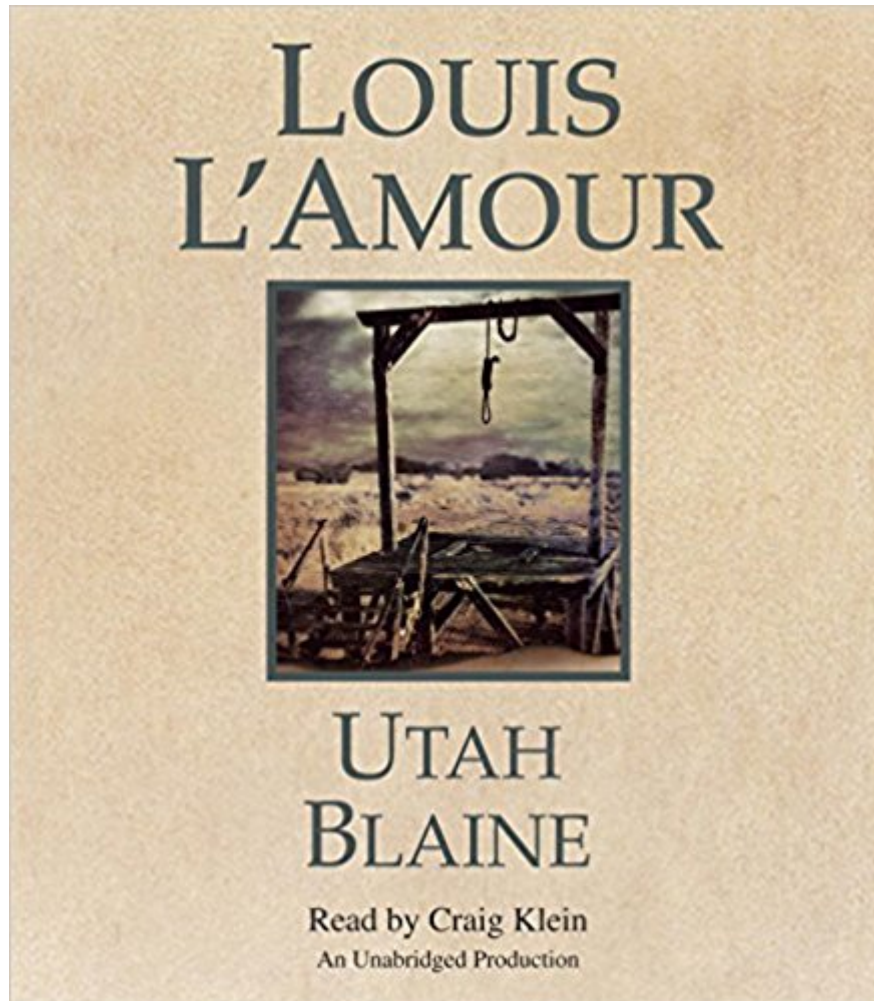




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Utah Blaine



Synopsis

Colonel Utah Blaine, held captive by the Army of the Revolution, broke out of jail and headed north from Mexico with nothing but the clothes on his back. Then he found new trouble struggling at the end of a noose and stepped in just in time to save the life of a Texas rancher. The would-be executioners were the rancher's own men, looking to steal his land. Now Utah has a unique proposition: Have the wealthy Texan play dead, introduce himself as the spreader's new foreman, and take care of the outlaws one by one. The wage to fight another man's war? A hundred a month plus expenses. The cost of falling in love while he earns that wage? It wasn't exactly part of the original agreement, but Utah will soon find out unless the bad guys get to him first.

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Customer Reviews

Range War. Utah Blaine had escaped from a Mexican prison and was headed north on foot when he came upon a hanging. The man in the noose was a tough old Texas rancher; the executioners were his own men turned against him, and Blaine stepped out of the shadows just in time to save a life. Now Blaine has a proposition: He'll ride to the rancher's land, take over as foreman of his outfit, and take on his enemies. Blaine is no stranger to fighting in another man's war, but soon enough he'll find a reason of his own: a cause worth dying for, and a woman worth living for... --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Louis L'Amour isn't a great writer by any stretch of the imagination, but he is a good one. Sometimes, he writes better westerns than "Utah Blaine," such as "Shalako" and "Hondo." Comparably, "Utah Blaine" is above-average, but conventional. L'Amour knew how to weave an exciting yarn, and he was thoroughly conversant with the elements of a good western. Best of all, he didn't weigh his prose down with excessive verbiage. Rarely will you ever have to consult a dictionary for any words because you haven't heard them. He wrote with the lean, mean skill of Hemingway, with emphasis on propelling the story forward, even if his writing qualified as strictly pulp. "Utah Blaine" concerns treacherous vigilantes that murder legitimate cattle ranchers and seek to undermine the social structure of the territory. He tells a tale here that is nothing new, but you won't find yourself putting "Utah Blaine" down. The dialogue is cut and dried and some of it is catchy. The action is swift and certain. For example, one character is quote shot just above the belt buckle, while another has the tag on his tobacco pouch dangling from his shirt pocket perforated. Utah Blaine is an interesting character, but the villainous Rink Witter was the gleam of my eye. Rink behaves like a ruthless gangster, particularly when he kills one of the chief characters at a railway depot. He doesn't shoot him once or twice but several times. Rink reminded me of Bob Steele from the Howard Hawks detective movie "The Big Sleep." The villains in "Utah Blaine" don't suffer from being ordinary. They are all bad with varying degrees of evil running up and down the scale. Utah's sidekick Ortmann was a charismatic character and the fight between them was delineated with skill. Another character named Rip Coker seemed like a good guy version of Rink without Rink's psychotic attitude. L'Amour is easy to read, and you know that he knew what he was writing about when he described western settings, Indian practices, and history. His westerns are old school, and his heroes were cut from the same fabric as John Wayne. For example, L'Amour has a couple of lusty villains, and their craving for the heroine goes against the code of the west, and they pay with their lives for their sexual deviancy. Altogether, I enjoyed "Utah Blaine."

What can't be said about Louis L'Amour that hasn't been said or printed. His writings answers any

questions you wanted to know about the west. From the mighty Pacific to the Atlantic Oceans everyone is familiar with this author. I will say include Louis L'Amour in quest regarding how the west was settled...

Set in the lawless rich grasslands of rim country Arizona Honor, betrayal, greed, avarice, good and evil are all present, plus the perfect woman for the perfect man. All was provided including the happily ever after

The author has a way of telling the story so you almost feel like you are there. Another great story.

Outstanding story. Utah Blaine is tough and smart without being cynical or worldly. Wonderful Hero.

It's hard for me to believe that this book was even written by Louis L'Amour. It is highly fictional and Blaine seems to be some kind of a super human with nine lives that cannot be penetrated. It's sadly falls into the category with other Western writers. At one point it was even difficult for me to finish reading especially after reading three outstanding Works including the first fast draw, Matagorda and Treasure Mountain

Finds who is taking the risks and settles the old score in the end but weaves a path through many a man and woman to get to the truth. How hard and tough the day of frontier living and travel were to get to find the truth of your friends and their lives.

This was a fun story. And as the story says, it about this country growing pains. And many pains it had. Not just the country's as a whole, but as people just like us. Just trying to live our life's in peace and in friends. We never know when or how our life will effect someone else, but good men, good women touch some many others and this story is just such a story. Enjoy

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