

louis l amour the quick and the dead

Louis L'Amour The Quick and The Dead: A Deep Dive into a Classic Western Tale

louis l amour the quick and the dead is more than just a phrase—it's a gateway into the rugged, captivating world crafted by one of the most beloved Western authors in American literature. Louis L'Amour's storytelling prowess shines brilliantly in this tale, weaving together themes of survival, justice, and the harsh realities of frontier life. For fans of Western fiction and newcomers alike, exploring "The Quick and the Dead" offers a thrilling journey through dusty trails, duels at high noon, and the timeless fight between good and evil.

Understanding Louis L'Amour's Legacy in Western Literature

Before diving into "The Quick and the Dead," it's important to appreciate Louis L'Amour's contribution to the Western genre. Often hailed as the king of Western fiction, L'Amour penned over 100 novels and hundreds of short stories, captivating readers with his authentic depictions of the American West.

The Hallmarks of Louis L'Amour's Writing Style

Louis L'Amour's stories are characterized by:

- **Vivid Descriptions:** His ability to paint the landscape—from the sprawling deserts to the rugged mountains—immerses readers in the setting.
- **Strong, Complex Characters:** Protagonists are often rugged, morally grounded individuals who navigate difficult challenges.
- **Historical Accuracy:** L'Amour was known for meticulous research, ensuring the backdrop of his stories reflected the realities of frontier life.
- **Themes of Honor and Justice:** His novels frequently explore what it means to uphold personal and societal codes in a lawless land.

Understanding these elements helps readers appreciate the nuances in "The Quick and the Dead."

Exploring "The Quick and the Dead" - Plot Overview

and Themes

At its core, "The Quick and the Dead" is a gripping Western tale that embodies many classic motifs of the genre. The title itself alludes to the urgency and high stakes that define the story's conflicts—where speed, skill, and wit can mean the difference between life and death.

Plot Essentials

The narrative follows a protagonist who is often caught between survival and morality. L'Amour's mastery lies in creating tension and suspense as the hero confronts adversaries in a landscape that is as unforgiving as the men who roam it. Without giving away too much for first-time readers, the story involves:

- A quest for justice or revenge, typical in Western narratives.
- A series of confrontations that test the protagonist's resolve and quick reflexes.
- The exploration of frontier law and the blurred lines between right and wrong.

These elements combine to create a fast-paced, engaging story that keeps readers hooked from start to finish.

Thematic Depth in "The Quick and the Dead"

What sets this work apart isn't just the action but the deeper themes Louis L'Amour subtly weaves into the plot:

- **Survival Against the Odds:** The unforgiving environment mirrors the protagonist's internal struggles.
- **Justice vs. Vengeance:** The story questions what justice means in a world where formal law is often absent.
- **Man vs. Nature and Man vs. Man:** These classic conflicts drive the narrative forward.

By exploring these themes, readers gain more than just entertainment; they encounter reflections on human nature and resilience.

The Quick and the Dead in the Context of Western Genre Evolution

The Western genre has evolved significantly over the decades, and Louis L'Amour's works, including "The Quick and the Dead," have played a pivotal role in shaping its trajectory.

How Louis L'Amour Shaped Modern Westerns

While early Westerns often painted simplistic pictures of good guys versus bad guys, L'Amour introduced layers of complexity. His characters have flaws, motivations, and backstories that make them relatable and human. This nuanced portrayal helped pave the way for modern Westerns that focus on character development as much as action.

Additionally, L'Amour's attention to historical detail adds authenticity that many contemporary readers crave. His stories serve as both entertainment and a window into the American frontier's past.

Comparing "The Quick and the Dead" to Other Western Classics

When placed alongside other notable Western tales, "The Quick and the Dead" holds its own because of its strong narrative drive and rich characterizations. Unlike some Westerns that rely heavily on shootouts and dramatic showdowns, this story balances action with introspection.

Fans of Western fiction who appreciate authors like Zane Grey, Cormac McCarthy, or Larry McMurtry will find Louis L'Amour's approach compelling, especially in this work where the tension between quick reflexes and moral choices is palpable.

Where to Find "The Quick and the Dead" and Related Works

For those intrigued by Louis L'Amour's storytelling, "The Quick and the Dead" is accessible through various formats:

- **Print Editions:** Available in bookstores and online retailers, often as part of collections or standalone novels.
- **eBooks:** Convenient for readers who prefer digital copies on their tablets or phones.
- **Audio Books:** Narrated versions bring the rugged West to life, perfect for commutes or multitasking.

Moreover, many libraries carry L'Amour's works, making it easy to explore his rich catalog without a hefty investment.

Exploring Other Louis L'Amour Titles

If "The Quick and the Dead" sparks your interest, consider diving into other celebrated titles like:

- *Hondo* – A classic tale of courage and romance.
- *The Sackett Series* – Chronicles the adventures of the Sackett family across the West.
- *Last of the Breed* – Blends Western grit with espionage thriller elements.

Each book offers a unique perspective on frontier life and the indomitable spirit of the West.

Tips for Enjoying Louis L'Amour's "The Quick and the Dead"

Whether you're a seasoned Western reader or new to the genre, here are some tips to enhance your experience:

1. **Immerse Yourself in the Setting:** Take time to appreciate L'Amour's descriptive passages—they transport you to the heart of the American West.
2. **Reflect on the Moral Questions:** Consider the ethical dilemmas faced by characters to deepen your understanding of the story.
3. **Read Aloud or Listen:** Sometimes hearing the dialogue and narrative can add a new layer of enjoyment.
4. **Explore Historical Context:** Familiarize yourself with the period's history to grasp the challenges and social dynamics portrayed.

Applying these approaches can turn reading "The Quick and the Dead" into a richer, more rewarding adventure.

Louis L'Amour's "The Quick and the Dead" remains a shining example of Western storytelling that combines thrilling action with meaningful themes. Its place in the canon of American Western literature is well-deserved, offering readers a chance to experience the grit, determination, and complexity of life on the frontier through the eyes of a master storyteller. Whether you're drawn to

tales of survival, justice, or the timeless dance of the quick and the dead, this story is a captivating ride worth taking.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the plot of Louis L'Amour's 'The Quick and the Dead'?

'The Quick and the Dead' is a Western novel by Louis L'Amour that follows the story of two brothers, Tom and Jeff Garfield, who seek justice and revenge after their father is killed by outlaws. The story is filled with action, suspense, and themes of honor and survival in the Old West.

When was 'The Quick and the Dead' by Louis L'Amour first published?

'The Quick and the Dead' was first published in 1973, showcasing Louis L'Amour's signature style of Western storytelling.

Is 'The Quick and the Dead' by Louis L'Amour based on a true story?

No, 'The Quick and the Dead' is a work of fiction. However, Louis L'Amour often incorporated realistic details about the American frontier to create an authentic setting.

What themes are explored in 'The Quick and the Dead' by Louis L'Amour?

The novel explores themes such as justice, revenge, survival, family loyalty, and the harsh realities of frontier life.

Are there any film adaptations of Louis L'Amour's 'The Quick and the Dead'?

There is no direct film adaptation of Louis L'Amour's 'The Quick and the Dead.' However, the title has been used for other Western films unrelated to L'Amour's work.

Where is 'The Quick and the Dead' by Louis L'Amour set?

The novel is set in the American West during the late 19th century, capturing the rugged landscapes and frontier towns typical of L'Amour's Western settings.

What makes Louis L'Amour's writing style unique in 'The Quick and the Dead'?

Louis L'Amour's writing is known for its vivid descriptions, authentic dialogue, and strong character development, which immerse readers in the Western frontier experience.

Additional Resources

****Louis L'Amour The Quick and the Dead: A Deep Dive into the Western Classic****

louis l amour the quick and the dead stands as a notable entry in the canon of American Western literature. Known for his vivid storytelling and authentic portrayal of the Old West, Louis L'Amour carved a niche for himself as one of the genre's most prolific and respected authors. "The Quick and the Dead" is among his works that encapsulate the rugged, raw spirit of frontier life, blending action, morality, and survival in a way that resonates with both casual readers and Western enthusiasts.

This article explores the thematic elements, character development, and cultural impact of Louis L'Amour's "The Quick and the Dead," while also placing it within the broader context of his literary contributions and the Western genre as a whole.

Exploring the Narrative and Themes of Louis L'Amour's The Quick and the Dead

At its core, "The Quick and the Dead" exemplifies the classic Western motif—the struggle between lawlessness and order, survival against harsh natural elements, and the pursuit of justice. L'Amour's narrative style is direct yet richly descriptive, providing readers with an immersive experience that captures the bleak beauty and unforgiving nature of the American frontier.

The story revolves around characters who embody the archetypal Western hero: rugged individualists shaped by the land and the challenges it presents. The title itself hints at the stark dichotomy of life and death prevalent in the Old West, where quick reflexes and sharp wits often determined one's fate.

Characterization and Moral Complexity

One of the distinguishing features of Louis L'Amour's writing in "The Quick and the Dead" is his nuanced portrayal of characters. Unlike simplistic good-versus-evil narratives, L'Amour delves into the moral ambiguities faced by his protagonists. The quickness referred to in the title is not only a physical attribute but also a metaphor for mental agility and ethical decisiveness.

The protagonist often confronts dilemmas that test their integrity and survival instincts simultaneously. This layered characterization enriches the narrative, making it more than just a conventional Western shootout story. Instead, it becomes a meditation on human nature under pressure.

Setting and Atmosphere: The Old West Realized

Louis L'Amour's expertise in setting is evident in "The Quick and the Dead." His meticulous research and personal knowledge of the American West lend authenticity to the backdrop against which the

story unfolds. The descriptions of the terrain, weather, and daily hardships faced by settlers and outlaws alike are rendered with a precision that transports readers to that era.

This attention to detail enhances the thematic tension, as the environment itself becomes an adversary. The unforgiving landscape mirrors the internal and external conflicts experienced by the characters, reinforcing the narrative's emotional and psychological stakes.

Louis L'Amour's Influence on the Western Genre and Popular Culture

Louis L'Amour's contribution to Western literature extends far beyond "The Quick and the Dead." With over 100 novels and numerous short stories, his works have shaped popular perceptions of the American West for decades. His ability to combine historical accuracy with compelling storytelling has garnered a loyal readership and critical acclaim.

Comparison with Contemporary Western Authors

When juxtaposed with contemporaries such as Zane Grey or Max Brand, L'Amour's writing is distinct in its balance of action and introspection. While Grey often romanticized the West and Brand infused his stories with pulpy adventure, L'Amour leaned towards realism, emphasizing the rugged individualism and ethical challenges intrinsic to frontier life.

This approach gave "The Quick and the Dead" and his other works a timeless quality that appeals to modern audiences seeking depth alongside entertainment.

Adaptations and Media Influence

Although "The Quick and the Dead" novel itself has not been directly adapted into a major film, the title has been associated with the Western genre in cinema, notably in the 1987 film "The Quick and the Dead" directed by Sam Raimi. While unrelated to L'Amour's story, this film's existence illustrates the enduring appeal of themes embodied by L'Amour's writing—gunfights, honor, and survival.

Moreover, Louis L'Amour's body of work has inspired various adaptations, including television movies and series, further cementing his legacy in American cultural history.

Key Features and Literary Techniques in The Quick and the Dead

Examining the craftsmanship of Louis L'Amour reveals several hallmark techniques that contribute to the effectiveness of "The Quick and the Dead."

- **Concise yet vivid prose:** L'Amour's writing is economical, avoiding unnecessary embellishments while painting clear, evocative images of the setting and characters.
- **Dialogue authenticity:** The conversations reflect the vernacular of the time, lending credibility and immersion.
- **Pacing and tension:** The narrative moves with a deliberate rhythm, building suspense and maintaining reader engagement through well-timed action sequences.
- **Thematic depth:** Themes of justice, redemption, and survival permeate the story, inviting readers to ponder the human condition beyond the immediate plot.

Pros and Cons of Louis L'Amour's Storytelling in This Work

Like any literary work, "The Quick and the Dead" exhibits strengths and potential limitations that affect reader reception.

1. Pros:

- Authentic depiction of the Western frontier enhances immersion.
- Complex characters avoid clichés common in the genre.
- The narrative balances action with philosophical reflections.

2. Cons:

- The straightforward prose style may feel sparse to readers preferring more elaborate literary flourishes.
- The pace, while generally effective, may slow during extended descriptive passages.
- Some modern readers might find the gender roles and cultural attitudes reflective of the time, which could be perceived as dated.

The Enduring Legacy of Louis L'Amour The Quick and

the Dead

Louis L'Amour's "The Quick and the Dead" continues to be a relevant work within the Western literary tradition. Its blend of historical verisimilitude, compelling characterization, and thematic richness offers valuable insights into the mythology and reality of the American frontier. As the Western genre evolves, revisiting such foundational texts helps readers and scholars appreciate the complexities and enduring fascination of this uniquely American narrative form.

In exploring "Louis L'Amour the quick and the dead," one encounters not just a story of survival and gunfights but a reflection on resilience, morality, and identity in a world where the stakes are often life and death. This legacy ensures the novel's place in both literary study and popular imagination well into the future.

[Louis L Amour The Quick And The Dead](#)

louis l amour the quick and the dead: The Quick and the Dead Louis L'Amour, 1979 Con Vallian knew the best way to stay out of trouble was to mind his own business. Then he stopped for a cup of coffee at a stranger's campfire and found himself guiding a family of greenhorns across the prairie -- fighting a pack of rustlers on one hand and some mighty unpredictable Indians on the other!--Page 4 of cover.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: *Louis L'Amour on Film and Television* Ed Andreychuk, 2010-03-08 This reference work presents useful information for every known film and television episode drawn from a Louis L'Amour work. Chronologically arranged, entries include production information, cast, credits, a synopsis, a description of the L'Amour source used, and the author's commentary. A brief biography of L'Amour, numerous photographs, and an extensive bibliography complement.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: The Pastoral Epistles Through the Centuries Jay Twomey, 2020-05-26 Drawing on scholarly insights and a comprehensive array of texts from the entirety of Christian tradition, *The Pastoral Epistles Through the Centuries* explores the rich legacy of the Pastorals as it has unfolded over the centuries. Explores the important role of the New Testament letters to Timothy and Titus, known collectively as the Pastoral Epistles, in the development of early Christianity Surveys the many theological, cultural, literary, political, and artistic uses of the Pastorals, and the broader influence these letters have had throughout the ages Considers the Pastorals' complex influence on issues such as church structure and rites, the roles of women in Christian religious life, the authority of scripture, and the development of monastic orders Examines the many ways in which language and concepts from the Pastoral Epistles (such as "fight the good fight" and "the root of all evils") have filtered into our cultural vernacular References the works of major theologians and interpreters from all periods, and places special emphasis on traditionally underrepresented interpreters

louis l amour the quick and the dead: *The Quick and the Dead* Louis L'Amour, 2004-08-03 When Duncan McKaskel decided to move his family west, he knew he would face dangers, and he was prepared for them. He knew about the exhausting terrain, and he was expecting the punishing elements. What he worried about was having to use violence against other men—men who would follow him and try to steal the riches that he didn't even possess. Yet bandits were only part of McKaskel's worries. For a mysterious stranger, Con Vallian, had appeared one night and saved his life. But was Vallian's true interest Duncan's wife, Susanna? And, more important, how did she feel about him? As they push on into the wilderness, Duncan must discover who is the greater

threat—the thieves outside his camp or the enigmatic stranger within. . . .

louis l amour the quick and the dead: The Haunted Mesa (Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures)
Louis L'Amour, 2019-10-01 As part of the Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures series, this edition contains exclusive bonus materials! The Navajo called them the Anasazi, the "ancient enemy," and their abandoned cities haunt the canyons and plateaus of the Southwest. For centuries the sudden disappearance of these people baffled historians. Summoned to a dark desert plateau by a desperate letter from an old friend, renowned investigator Mike Raglan is drawn into a world of mystery, violence, and explosive revelations. Crossing a border beyond the laws of man and nature, he will learn of the astonishing world of the Anasazi and discover the most extraordinary frontier ever encountered. Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures is a project created to release some of the author's more unconventional manuscripts from the family archives. In Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures: Volumes 1, Beau L'Amour takes the reader on a guided tour through many of the finished and unfinished short stories, novels, and treatments that his father was never able to publish during his lifetime. L'Amour's never-before-seen first novel, *No Traveller Returns*, faithfully completed for this program, is a voyage into danger and violence on the high seas. These exciting publications will be followed by Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures: Volume 2. Additionally, many beloved classics will be rereleased with an exclusive Lost Treasures postscript featuring previously unpublished material, including outlines, plot notes, and alternate drafts. These postscripts tell the story behind the stories that millions of readers have come to know and cherish.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: Supermassive James Trefil, Shobita Satyapal, 2025-03-04 Black holes, demystified: follow along the quest to understand the history and influence of one of space science's most fascinating and confounding phenomena Led by physicist James Trefil and astrophysicist Shobita Satyapal, this book traverses the incredible history of black holes and introduces contemporary developments and theories on still unanswered questions about the enigmatic objects. From the early work of Albert Einstein and Karl Schwarzschild to an insider look at black hole-galaxy connection research led by co-author Satyapa, the comprehensive book surveys an exciting and evolving branch of space science, with topics that include: Visibility of black holes Quasars, the brightest objects in the universe The black hole at the center of the Milky Way Popular theories on the origin of black holes Cosmic X rays Death of supermassives Black hole collisions Black holes in science fiction Invisible to the naked eye and telescopes, black holes have mystified and entranced astronomers, scientists, and humanity for more than a century. The first image of a supermassive black hole was only unveiled in 2019, and new black holes are continually discovered. Supermassive illuminates what we know about black holes so far and what we have yet to uncover.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: The Wild West of Louis L'Amour Tim Champlin, 2015-08-05 Heroes, adventure, history and trouble - discover it all through the eyes and pen of Louis L'Amour. At the time of his death in 1988, all of Louis L'Amour's 100 novels and short-story collections remained in print, a testament to the popularity of a prolific writer best known for his fast-paced tales of the American West. *The Wild West of Louis L'Amour* is a richly illustrated, sumptuous book commemorating one of America's most beloved and successful authors and the landscapes, characters, and violent times he portrayed. Author Tim Champlin (himself a writer of Western historical fiction) uncovers all of the secrets of L'Amour's themes and characters - geography of the West, lone heroes, gunfighters, mining and ranching, women, Native Americans, food, and transportation. The frontier regions, towns, and events that featured in L'Amour's writing, as well as the real folks on whom his characters were based, come to life through thoroughly researched illustrations. The collection of more than 200 images includes maps, period photos and daguerreotypes, period illustrations, paintings of the regions discussed, modern photography of towns and countryside, and cover art from L'Amour's books and the pulp magazines in which he was published before he became a best-selling author. For the true L'Amour fan, *The Wild West of Louis L'Amour* is also a complete history of his colorful early life as a cowboy, lumberjack, longshoreman, prizefighter, merchant seaman, and army officer. No L'Amour fan will want to skip this comprehensive, beautiful look at the writer, the man, and the world in which he set his tales.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: Passin' Through (Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures)

Louis L'Amour, 2020-06-30 As part of the Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures series, this edition contains exclusive bonus materials! It seemed the perfect place to lie low. The owner of the ranch was an attractive gray-haired lady who had once been an actress. The other woman was a beautiful, fragile-seeming blonde. They needed repairs done, and he needed to disappear for a while. The first sign that things were not as they should be was when a Pinkerton man questioned him about a missing woman. Then he accidentally found a will belonging to the previous owner of the ranch. After that, a young lady showed up in town making claims that the place belonged to her. Worried that his hideout was turning into a battleground, he didn't know what would be more dangerous, staying or leaving. For a man interested only in passin' through, he suddenly found himself entangled in a deadly struggle. . . . Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures is a project created to release some of the author's more unconventional manuscripts from the family archives. In Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures: Volume 1 and Volume 2, Beau L'Amour takes the reader on a guided tour through many of the finished and unfinished short stories, novels, and treatments that his father was never able to publish during his lifetime. L'Amour's never-before-seen first novel, No Traveller Returns, faithfully completed for this program, is a voyage into danger and violence on the high seas. Additionally, many beloved classics will be rereleased with an exclusive Lost Treasures postscript featuring previously unpublished material, including outlines, plot notes, and alternate drafts. These postscripts tell the story behind the stories that millions of readers have come to know and cherish.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: Forever Wildfire Elizabeth Swenson, 2013-06-14 Life was coming full circle for Reese. On occasion his mind drifted to the memories of a hauntingly beautiful face of a woman lost in a world she didn't know; searching for the man she had loved. A lump caught in his throat as he thought about how blessed he was to have the woman he loved more than all the stars in the sky in his life. As he grew more deeply in love with Rachel, the face from the past grew fainter. His anticipation of a lifetime of happiness could not have felt more right than it did on this day. Join Reese's battle between right and wrong, love and hate as it comes alive in a ghastly journey to be with the woman he loves while resisting the arms of the beautiful Katherine.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: Ethics at the Cinema Ward E. Jones, Samantha Vice, 2011-01-10 The editors of Ethics at the Cinema invited a diverse group of moral philosophers and philosophers of film to engage with ethical issues raised within, or within the process of viewing, a single film of each contributor's choice. The result is a unique collection of considerable breadth. Discussions focus on both classic and modern films, and topics range from problems of traditional concern to philosophers (e.g. virtue, justice, and ideals) to problems of traditional concern to filmmakers (e.g. sexuality, social belonging, and cultural identity).

louis l amour the quick and the dead: Desert Patriarchy Janet Bennion, 2004-05 On the high desert plateau of northern Mexico, outsiders have taken refuge from the secular world. Here three Anglo communities of Mormons and Mennonites have ordered their lives around male supremacy, rigid religious duty, and a rejection of modern technology and culture. In so doing, they have successfully adapted to this harsh desert environment. Janet Bennion has lived and worked among these people, and in this book she introduces a new paradigm—desert patriarchy—to explain their way of life. This perspective sheds light not only on these particular communities but also on the role of the desert environment in the development and maintenance of fundamentalist ideology in other parts of the United States and around the globe. Making new connections between the arid environment, opposition to technology, and gender ideology, Bennion shows that it is the interplay of the desert and the unique social traditions and gender dynamics embedded in Anglo patriarchal fundamentalism that accounts for the successful longevity of the Mexican colonies. Her model defines the process by which male supremacy, female autonomous networking, and religious fundamentalism all facilitate successful adaptation to the environment. More than a theoretical analysis, Desert Patriarchy provides an intimate glimpse into the daily lives of these people, showing how they have taken refuge in the desert to escape religious persecution, the forced secular education of their children, and economic and political marginalization. It particularly sheds light on

the ironic autonomy of women within a patriarchal system, showing how fundamentalist women in Chihuahua are finding numerous creative ways to access power and satisfaction in a society structured to subordinate and even degrade them. *Desert Patriarchy* richly expands the literature on nontraditional religious movements as it enhances our understanding of how environment can shape society. It offers unique insights into women's status in patriarchal communities and provides a new way of looking at similar communities worldwide.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: *Popular Fiction* Ken Gelder, 2004 In this important book, Ken Gelder offers a lively and comprehensive account of popular fiction as a distinctive literary and cultural field, tied directly to the logics and practices of entertainment and industry.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: *Cowboy Metaphysics* Peter A. French, 2000-01-01 For many of us, the image of the cowboy hero facing off against the villain dominates our memories of the movies. Peter French examines the world of the western, one in which death is annihilation, the culmination of life, and there is nothing else. In that world he finds alternatives to Judeo-Christian traditions that dominate our ethical theories, alternatives that also attack the views of the most prominent ethicists of the past three centuries. More than just a meditation on the portrayal of the good, the bad, and the ugly on the big screen, French's work identifies an attitude toward life that he claims is one of the most distinctive and enduring elements of American culture.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: *New York Magazine* , 1991-04-22 New York magazine was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the New York Herald Tribune and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country. With award-winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion, the magazine's consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself, while celebrating New York as both a place and an idea.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: *Shooting Stars of the Small Screen* Douglas Brode, 2010-01-01 Since the beginning of television, Westerns have been playing on the small screen. From the mid-1950s until the early 1960s, they were one of TV's most popular genres, with millions of viewers tuning in to such popular shows as *Rawhide*, *Gunsmoke*, and Disney's *Davy Crockett*. Though the cultural revolution of the later 1960s contributed to the demise of traditional Western programs, the Western never actually disappeared from TV. Instead, it took on new forms, such as the highly popular *Lonesome Dove* and *Deadwood*, while exploring the lives of characters who never before had a starring role, including anti-heroes, mountain men, farmers, Native and African Americans, Latinos, and women. *Shooting Stars of the Small Screen* is a comprehensive encyclopedia of more than 450 actors who received star billing or played a recurring character role in a TV Western series or a made-for-TV Western movie or miniseries from the late 1940s up to 2008. Douglas Brode covers the highlights of each actor's career, including Western movie work, if significant, to give a full sense of the actor's screen persona(s). Within the entries are discussions of scores of popular Western TV shows that explore how these programs both reflected and impacted the social world in which they aired. Brode opens the encyclopedia with a fascinating history of the TV Western that traces its roots in B Western movies, while also showing how TV Westerns developed their own unique storytelling conventions.

louis l amour the quick and the dead: *Television Westerns* Alvin H. Marill, 2011-06-01 Westerns have featured prominently in films almost since motion pictures were first produced at the end of the nineteenth century and when televisions invaded American homes in the late 1940s and early '50s, Western programs filled the small screen landscape. Throughout the 1950s and well into the 1960s, these shows dominated television with such long-running successes as *Bonanza*, *Wagon Train*, and *Maverick*. And though the genre has fallen on hard times over the years, it has never died, as Hollywood continues to produce films, mini-series, and shows that keep the west alive. In *Television Westerns: Six Decades of Sagebrush Sheriffs, Scalawags, and Sidewinders*, Alvin H. Marill looks at the genre as it was represented from the beginning of television—from the twenty-year run of *Gunsmoke* to the brutal revisionist take of *Deadwood*. This volume encompasses all manifestations of the Western, including such series as *Rawhide*, *The Virginian*, and *The Wild*,

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