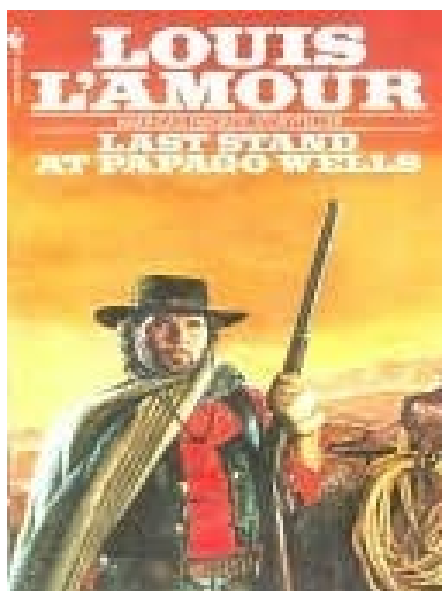




Last Stand at Papago Wells (Bantam Books)

Louis L'Amour

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Last Stand at Papago Wells (Bantam Books) Louis L'Amour

It was the only water for miles in a vast, sun-blasted desert where water meant survival. So Logan Cates naturally headed for Papago Wells. But he wasn't the only one. Fleeing the fierce Churupati and his Apache warriors, other travelers had come there too. And when the Apaches found them, they began a siege as relentless and unforgiving as the barren land...and just as inescapable.

The last thing Cates wanted was to be responsible for the lives of thirteen desperate strangers and a shipment of gold. But he knew that if they were to survive, he was their last chance. He also knew that some in the party were willing to die—or kill—to get their hands on the money. If he couldn't get them to work together, it wouldn't be the desert or even the Apaches that would do them in—it would be the greed of the very people he was trying to save.

Last Stand at Papago Wells (Bantam Books) Details

Date : Published (first published 1957)

ISBN :

Author : Louis L'Amour

Format : Kindle Edition 136 pages

Genre : Westerns, Fiction



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From Reader Review Last Stand at Papago Wells (Bantam Books) for online ebook

Theresa says

One of the best Louis L'Amours that I've read in a long time. He may be old-school but this is fiction that's easy to read, doesn't cause nightmares, and will make you grateful for this country we live in.

Frank Kelso says

L'Amour always writes a good western. The collection of people coming together (at Papago Wells) allowed readers to see how L'Amour let's each one's backstory foreshadow how they'd react when pushed hard--between the Indians and the lack of food--they're pushed hard.

Charlotte says

This book is full of tough things and tough people, but the good ones stand out. It was hard for me to get into it at the first - there were so many people to keep straight, but I liked it by the end.

Elaine says

This was an exciting book as various groups of people gathered at the only watering hole in hopes of outliving the attacking Apache. All sorts of personalities and values have to work together to ensure success.

Eva says

(Actual rating: 4.5)

After soaking up the brilliance that is To Tame A Land, the first L'Amour novel I ever read, I was a bit leery of reading another of his books (though I've always enjoyed his short stories) because I was afraid it would fall short. HOWEVER. That was not the case. I would say that Last Stand is almost as good as TTAL, if not just as good. Brilliant story, great characters (villains and heroes alike), and marvelous tension throughout. (Plus, the SHIPS. Lonnie and Junie especially.)

And as it turns out THERE'S A MOVIE. (Different name - Apache Territory - but it's definitely an adaption of Last Stand. WOOT.)

Anyway, if you're a fan of westerns, read this book! :)

Bruce says

I am reading through Louis L'Amour's novels in chronological sequence. He wrote 92 novels. This is my 16th one completed. I love L'Amour's writing. You can tell that he had life experience as a cowboy. But this one was not one of my favorite. It was a very different plot and style, which was refreshing, but he had too many characters with too much going on and too few pages to make it all work. The ending felt contrived and way too short. But it was still a Louis L'Amour western, so I enjoyed it. Just not as well as some of his others.

Jon says

Louis L'Amour was a big part of my childhood and I appreciate him for helping excite me to read and value stories. So my four star rating is in (large?) part due to nostalgia.

Last Stand at Papago Wells is one of my favorites because L'Amour deviates slightly from the Western pulp formula. There are flashes of very nice pulp writing and some interesting characterization and passages about the landscape and history that seem to push against Western myths a bit. Chapter 2 seems particularly interesting in how it sets up the characters and how they come together at the well. The harsh and desperate tone, coupled with some melodrama, gave this story an almost noirish quality that seems absent in most of the L'Amour stories I've read. The Indians aren't developed, of course, but there's a minor attempt to make them interesting and not quite stock -- this attempt doesn't really flourish past this point though, which is unfortunate, but not unexpected. Also, the real villains aren't the Indians at all. The Indians are props rather than real characters, not unlike the inquisitors in Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum," which *Papago Wells* bears some resemblance to in terms of confinement, tightening space, and desperation resolved through a completely unrealistic deus ex machina. Naturally the story has to ultimately finish in classic pulp Western fashion, but its subversion and containment is interesting to me. I don't know that it is as bleak as, say, *The Empty Land*, but it beats the affirmations found in far too many pulpy Westerns.

Pseudo-intellectual thought aside, I really just felt like some solid pulp from my childhood and this satisfied my craving perfectly.

Bill Shuey says

Last Stand at Papago Wells is one of L'Amour's better westerns. The plot and characters are believable. The reaction of the various characters to the stress and fear is believable. Everything goes fine until the last couple of pages and then it becomes predictable with the guy getting the girl and then living happily ever after.

All and all an interesting book.

Greg Strandberg says

I liked the idea of several parties riding out and running into their own troubles before running into each other in the desert. At that point it becomes a matter of searching for water in the desert and staying away

from the Indians, and at times, each other.

What I didn't like was that this book is 136 pages but I felt it could have been 75 and told the story just as well. For me, I just had trouble keeping track of some of the characters. Maybe if I read the book over a day or two that wouldn't be a problem, but I stretched this one over a couple weeks. I felt the main characters were pretty wooden, or cookie-cutter, and the love interest angle wasn't that convincing.

It's a simple stand-alone western and it gets the job done, which I believe is mainly to wile away the day without getting into too much trouble, are having to deal with too much accosting from the wife.

Scott Lyson says

Our senses are fragile things, dainty things, occasionally trustworthy, yet always demanding of perspective. Our senses need horizons, they need gauges, they need rules by which to apply themselves, and in the sand storm there is no horizon and there are no rules. Logan Cates knew it was coming.

Ken Schloman says

Written in 1957, this is a classic western that contains all the trademarks of L'Amour's craft--- classic western story, interesting characters, and fantastic description. Like any of his books, a good read for fans of the genre.

Allen says

Very enjoyable. Disparate groups of travelers meet at a waterhole, pursued by Apaches. The character of each of the defenders is tried to the limit as they learn that the deadliest enemies are each other.

Fredrick Danysh says

Several groups of people of people, including hostile Apaches, converge on Papago Wells In the Arizona dessert. Soon the whites are fighting among themselves as well as with the Apache. As bodies start to fall, a treasure of gold is exposed in the possession of one of the band. Another exciting western by L'Amour.

Paul Nash says

Ok...this was my 2nd L'amour book and at first I was disappointed. He seemed to be introducing way too many characters for such a short book and it seemed like I was reading a completely different writer. But then the truth of the story hit me, it clicked and I loved it!

This is like a Western-Horror. Imagine being trapped in the desert, at Papago Wells, one of the only watering holes for miles. You are surrounded by Apache Indians who want to kill you...and, there are even the greedy

bastards you are trapped with that also want to kill you.
Don't sleep
Losing water
Food supplies running out
Death around every corner
...can you survive?
Thank God Logan Cates is trapped with you!
This is a horrific old western tale of survival and it was great!
4 stars!

Brynna says

Louis L'Amour, like Brian Jacques and P. G. Wodehouse, tends to tell the same story over and over again, with several stock convolutions. This tends to bother some people. I think it would bother me, if it weren't for the fact that the one story he tells is such a stinking good one, the kind of story you want to hear over and over and over again (the same thing goes for Mr. Jacques and Mr. Wodehouse).
This book is no exception.
