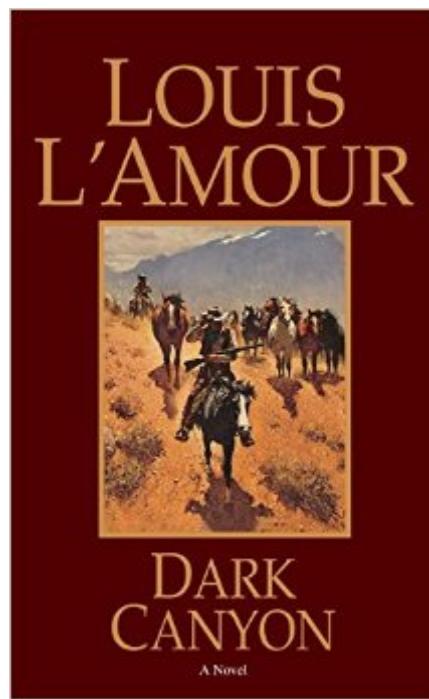


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# Dark Canyon



## Synopsis

When Gaylord Riley walked away from the Coburn gang, he had money and a dream. He worked hard and built a cabin, gathered a herd of cattle, and fell in love with Marie Shattuck. But when he is confronted with false accusations of rustling and murder, Riley is forced to defend his new law-abiding way of life. Outnumbered and facing a lynching party, Riley is surprised when his old friends return to lend him a hand. But how can they help him and keep themselves out of jail? With the local marshal already suspicious of Riley, the Coburn gang will have to plan well and move fast. But that shouldn't be a problem. Their reputation was built by doing just that.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is another one of L'Amour's books that doesn't feel complete to me because L'Amour took the easy way out, relying on a wishy-washy romanticism of the west and suspended disbelief to move events along. I wish L'Amour had taken time to build history around the story to remove some of the fantasy elements. I don't understand how or why this kid, Gaylord Riley, feels so much loyalty to the Coburn gang. He hooks up with them, plays lookout for a couple hold-ups, and, somehow, the gang morphs into friends close enough to be family who want to help Riley to stop being an outlaw and settle down before the law catches up to him. Then, Gaylord needs to move cattle through outlaw territory and all the outlaws comply without giving him trouble. They pitch in and help, you know, because outlaws are known for being nice and community-minded (snicker). The bad guys don't feel like bad guys until the latter half of the book and the bulk of the story plays out like a small-town soap opera set in the west, which isn't what I expect from an action-adventure book. The "feel" of

this book reminds me of old Hollywood westerns and old movies slanted toward Disney-style storytelling (but, sometimes, I want a nostalgic read like that so I could feel differently toward this book on a different day, in a different mood). This book, like a few other of L'Amour's books, reminds me of a screenplay and I've wondered if the initial draft emerged as a script and changed gears at a later time in the editing process. The bones of a good story are here but it needed more construction.

Dark Canyon is one of Louis L'Amour's best. The story of a reformed outlaw going straight is well-written and full of action. You'll want to read it in one sitting.

Like the majority of Louis L'Amour fans, my favorites are his old standby westerns, and this is one. This is a classic L'Amour style western with good strong characters and very little bad language, a good message and minimum violence. Anyone who likes realism but not in the extreme, this book is for you. If you like it, also read Kirby Jonas's Legend of the Tumbleweed. They call Jonas the New Louis L'Amour, and these compliment each other really well.

Hey folks, here's another classic L'Amour. It's great. Keeps you wanting to turn the pages. We have a strong character here with good morals, and that's what I like to see in a Western. Why give us some sleeze ball as a hero? This is fiction, right? Dark Canyon compares very favorably with the best writing of Elmer Kelton, Kirby Jonas and Elmore Leonard!--James Drury

There's no one who can touch his storytelling style. After discovering Mr L'Amour all other efforts at the western just didn't measure up! Straightforward writing that makes you a part or at least a first hand observer of the story. Wish there were more like him to bring our nations past into perspective.

I like Louis L'Amour. Even though I know pretty much most of his story lines. I still enjoy reading them. Would buy again. I have been slowly collecting them over the years. And often re read them when not feeling well. Just what I do...

Typical L'Amour story. Young man goes wrong, but is given a second chance. We are all dependent on others in the direction we go. How we react to others depends on the strength of the individual. His characters all seem to have an inner strength to do good and kill evil. Good read.

Just finished reading this one for the 3rd time in a decade. I place this book along side the best Louis L'Amour wrote. That includes HONDO, SHALAKO, and among others, HIGH LONESOME. This one can be read in just a few hours, at one sitting. But that doesn't detract one iota from the excellence of this western. This 1963 western has the canyonlands of Southeastern Utah as its locale. Situated in the Robbers Roost area of the Colorado River. A very rough and isolated area reaching 3,000 feet, in some places. An area I'm sure Mr. L'Amour from experience knew only too well. I seldom like dealing with plots, because I don't want someone spoiling the beginning, middle, or ending for me. The plot is very plausible, however, for in the west many men who started against the law, eventually rode for the law, becoming good citizens. One of the interesting facts of this book which I had forgotten, is the appearance of Tell Sackett. And I recall from another L'Amour book, Emily Sackett stating the Sacketts were always to ride with the law, never against it. So, if Tell Sackett sides 'Lord' Riley, the main character, you know, as Louis would say, Riley is one to ride the river with. If you have never read much Louis L'Amour this one is an excellent one to launch your reading. If you are a seasoned reader you will still find several hours enjoyment with this classic western. It reaffirms just how much a master with the western Louis at times could be. Semper Fi.

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