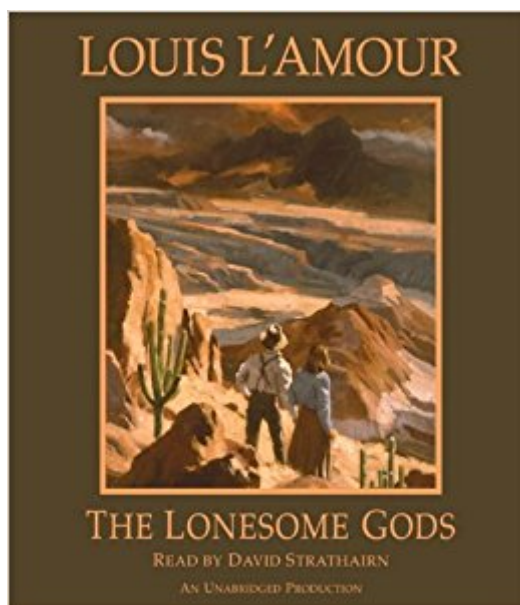


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The Lonesome Gods



Synopsis

"I am Johannes Verne, and I am not afraid." This was the boy's mantra as he plodded through the desert alone, left to die by his vengeful grandfather. Johannes Verne was soon to be rescued by outlaws, but no one could save him from the lasting memory of his grandfather's eyes, full of impenetrable hatred. Raised in part by Indians, then befriended by a mysterious woman, Johannes grew up to become a rugged adventurer and an educated man. But even now, strengthened by the love of a golden-haired girl and well on his way to making a fortune in bustling early-day Los Angeles, the past may rise up to threaten his future once more. And this time only the ancient gods of the desert can save him. From the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

"Riveting reading." *The New Yorker*. "This is L'Amour's finest book." *California Magazine* From the Paperback edition.

The Lonesome Gods is Louis L'Amour's biggest and most important historical novel to date, a sweeping adventure of the California frontier. Here is the fascinating story of Johannes Verne, a young man left to die by his vengeful grandfather, rescued by outlaws and raised in part by the Indians of the desert. Strengthened by the love of two women -- Miss Nesselrode, whose mysterious past fires her ambitions for the future and Meghan, a willful young beauty -- Verne grows to become a rugged adventurer, a man strong enough to embrace the awesome power of the Palm Springs desert, and bold enough to stake a claim in the bustling world of opportunity that was

early-day Los Angeles. "Riveting reading." -- The New Yorker. "This is L'Amour's finest book." -- California Magazine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Louis L'Amour's wish was to be remembered as a good storyteller, but he was more than good. To me, he was a consummate storyteller of the highest caliber. His depth and breadth of historical knowledge about the world, and his understanding of human nature make his stories interesting and intriguing. Although his stories are set on the frontier in the western United States, it's unfortunate he is pigeonholed as a Western writer. His stories may be westerns by default, but they are first and foremost stories of people making the best of their situation in life, of people rising to meet and overcome great challenges. *The Lonesome Gods* is a perfect example. There are many reasons people were drawn to the western U.S. beyond just wanting to live outside the law or influence of more settled areas; many of these people were intelligent and educated, though maybe not always in the narrow sense the term educated now has. I also like the value L'Amour places on books, reading, and knowledge in this story, and his recognition of the value and intelligence of Native Americans. I really enjoyed this story and the people in it.

I'm a big fan of the late Louis L'Amour. I've read 7 of his westerns almost all 5 stars, *The Walking Haunted Mesa* 5 stars and now *The Lonesome Gods*. The book is a page burner. 406 pages I read in 3 days. No boring parts. L'Amour again is a master at character development and beautiful scenery description. Also we get some nice history of early California and the ethnic groups that lived there in particular the big, powerful, huge land holding Dons of Spanish nobility descent. Lots of gun action and desert survival. I'll just give a little of the book and not ruin it for you. We see our hero Johannes Verne growing up as a 6 year old with friendly Indians after his sick father is murdered in the desert protecting his young son. His father an experienced seaman wanted to take Johannes to his rich grandfather, a Spanish Don near Los Angeles (a small 3,000 person town but growing big). Unfortunately the Don lives in a weird world of ill perceived nobility. He hates Johannes father and Johannes. He thought the father was a nothing and did not want non noble blood to marry his daughter. He has Johannes father killed and Johannes left to die in the desert. The Don was a real jerk and an evil man. Johannes grows up with Indian help and finds a beautiful young girl that he eventually will marry. That's about enough to wet your reading appetite. Lots of action, fighting, back and forth plots to kill Johannes. Lots of villains and good friends. You won't get bored reading this book. If you want to read a great western about a young boy's survival, growing to adulthood in a desert environment this is the book for you. Great reading and highly recommended. 5 stars

Fascinating description of life in the desert, scrub forests, the mountains of old California and the West. L'Amour's love of and deep reverence for life in the old far west, the people, and the realities of the time are woven into a heck of a good story. His usual excellent treatment of the land, the ecosystems, the harsh realities of life in the times shines and in a stunning life or death chase through harsh desert landscapes the reader is given a deep understanding of courage, the value of knowing how to live in adverse climates. It is a book the reader is sorry to finish.

Description of the old California desert is stunning. Ditto old L.A. Great feel for locale. My only complaint is the lead is one of those John Wayne guys who shows no real personality. He's so strong and honest and upright I almost found myself rooting for the villains. But there is so much good in the book and I recommend it.

As a younger teenager I read one of my grandfather's L'Amours and decided he wasn't for me but a recent referral from a friend had me pick this up and I am so glad I did. I loved this book and was on the edge of my seat through it. In the middle there is a section that is so poetic and beautiful.

Read this with my kids when they were little. So many great discussions came out of reading this book with the family. It made us think, which is always good in a long book. We still quote from it and they are older teens and adults.

Really liked it. Great sense of life in the California desert. Great infusion of history. Second of his books I read. Lead character is your typical John Wayne/ Gary Cooper type. That kind of irked me, especially when compared to Lonesome Dove. But well worth reading.

One of Louis L'Amour's great novels narrated wonderfully by David Strathairn. The novel is set in the early California years of the Dons, beautiful Spanish ladies, vaqueros, and cowboys.

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