



Matagorda

Louis L'Amour

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Tap Duvarney lost his innocence in the War Between the States and then put his skills to the test as a soldier in the frontier army. Now he has settled on the Texas coast, working a ranch as the partner of his old friend Tom Kittery—and finding himself in the middle of a feud between Kittery and the neighboring Munson family. Around Matagorda Island, most people are either backing the Munsons or remaining silent. But the danger from outside Kittery's camp is nothing compared to the threat within, as Duvarney begins to suspect that Kittery's woman isn't everything she appears to be. Now Tap is discovering that he must go to war again. But will it be with the Munsons—or with his closest friend?

Matagorda Details

Date : Published (first published 1967)

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Author : Louis L'Amour

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From Reader Review Matagorda for online ebook

Benjamin Thomas says

A nice solid L'Amour western...nothing better on a cold winter's day with your feet up by the fireplace and an old dog laying on the rug by your feet. That sounds nice to me but I actually read most of this one while on my lunch break, sitting in my car, shivering a bit in the cold weather while my nearly frozen fingers attempted to turn the pages. Yes, I love to read that much.

I'll rank this one among the top 20 of all of the Louis L'Amour westerns I've read...somewhere around 85-90 so far. A good, albeit reluctant hero, a long-standing feud to provide tough bad guys with reputations, a cattle-drive, a pretty girl or two, and lots of gun-play. What's not to love?

Christopher Taylor says

Although this started out an all-too-typical western trail drive book, it turned into a unique story after a while with a hurricane and the introduction of a very interesting and admirable love interest and a unique and interesting bad guy.

Sarah says

When so many people like an author it seems worthwhile to read something by him/her just to figure out what its all about. Well, that's what I'm doing. Not very impressive, not terribley bad either. Kind of amusing stereotypes. Now I know what men's daydreams are made of. (Or some of them).

Henry Avila says

Former Army Major, Tappan Duvarney, veteran of the Civil War,(the War between the States) and the Indian fighting , is tired.All he wants of life ,is a little money.So he can marry his fiancee, Jessica Trescott.Finally receiving just \$ 7,000 of his wealthy, ship owning father's estate ,in Virginia.His family mansion was burnt and their ships, destroyed.They were Union supporters ,from the South!Unwisely investing with an old friend, Tom Kittery,(the cattle business) in Texas.Tappan, doesn't know that Tom, is waging a bloody feud, with the Munsons. Meeting Mady Coppering ,Tom's girlfriend on the ship,to Texas, he learns the truth.Arriving at the Lone Star State's town of Indianola,Duvarney is jumped, by you guessed it, a couple of Munsons.Dispatching both quickly ,with a few punches.He soon finds a dead man on the street.The deceased, was with the Kittery faction.Showing great courage, Tappan buries the body, against the Munsons wishes.Mady had told him ,how to safely contact Kittery .The Captain of the vessel, also warned him about the leader of the Munsons ,Jackson Huddy , a killer ,who likes to shoot a man, when his back is turned!Relucantly he joins the fight ,after a friend is murdered.Killings abound and Jessica comes to town unexpectantly.More danger, the nameless 1875 Hurricane, hits Matagorda Island. Will it reach Indianola. Can the people seeking shelter, from the storm, including Jessica and Mady, gathered inside the courthouse,survive?

P.S. Winn says

I like the author's characters. Readers follow the life of Tap Duvarney, a man who is a bit lost in life after dealing with war and hardships. If you haven't read a book by this author you are missing out. I love the westerns and how the author makes the characters not only believable, but people you would like to sit around a campfire and have a cup of coffee with,

Carol says

"Why not some Louis L'Amour?" was my husband's reply to the question about a book for our road trip. Thus, Matagorda (what our library had). It was OK. For escapist fiction, it's better than others.

Shauna says

I'm a fan of Westerns. This book had some weaknesses and some strengths. What I loved the most was the strong woman that was trusted, loved and boldly courageous. I liked the angle of a natural disaster that many people in the US consider a new phenomenon. Fun story about dirty reputations, family feuds, money, prestige and how true love can be hard work.

Devero says

Sono cresciuto leggendo fumetti western. Tex prima di tutto il resto. E vedendo film western al cinema dopo il catechismo, in un cinema di paese dove tipicamente i film arrivavano in ritardo di un anno e mezzo o due, ma la domenica pomeriggio proiettava film per "ragazzini" a volte vecchi di molti anni.

Questo però è il mio primo romanzo western propriamente detto.

Letto quasi tutto d'un fiato, nell'arco di 24 ore.

Niente da dire: L'Amour scrive molto bene, ha le idee chiare, e in questa faida di fantasia inserisce la storica distruzione della città di Indianola nel 1875. I personaggi sono abbastanza grezzi, a parte praticamente il solo protagonista, ma con pochi tratti riesce a dare bene l'idea di tutti i protagonisti. E delle due protagoniste femminili, che saranno due rivelazioni. Il finale è decisamente un anticlimax ben riuscito.

Credo che se mai mi capiterà, leggerò altro di L'Amour.

Scott Mayfield says

Good read

Another great story. Good store line with a twist from most of Mr L'Amour's other books and of course lots of action. Worth the read.

Curtis says

This was a fast-faced adventure story that kept me up late because I wanted to finish it. It's the standard L'Amour formula frontier story.

Michael says

Louis L'Amour was not one of the most technical or long-winded writers, he was short, succinct, and to the point and had a way that grabs you into the story immediately. The descriptions of the scenery, events, people, and situations made you feel as if you were right there living it side-by-side with his characters.

With Matagorda you have the classic Louis L'Amour situations with the good guy fighting the bad guy, a life-threatening conflict, and the good guy wins.

Adam Polselli says

I finished this novel in a day! It's a quick read, and not very deep, but Tap is a bad man! I really liked him as a character.

Andy Barkus says

Great lamour book

The girl comes thru at the end as always. This was as good as the sacket brand of books. Thanks

Nicole L Ochoa says

A cattle drive mixed with a land war and a hurricane in Texas. My favorite character shows up toward the end. Another great book by L'Amour.

Joyce says

If you're a fan of classic westerns, this is a good one. Tap Duvarney has fought in the Civil War and against the Indians in the West. Now he's ready to settle down, marry his sweetheart from the East, and raise cattle. He joins a war buddy in Texas in the cattle business, but when he arrives, he's immediately embroiled in a feud between Tom Kittery and the Munson clan. He takes charge, fights off the Munsons, rounds up the

cattle and prepares to drive them to Kansas and the train, only to be stopped by a hurricane. Not to mention the treachery of Kittery's girl. This book is full of the western tropes: gunfights, cattle drives, feuds, good women who save the men they love and bad ones who betray them. And a hurricane. It moves at a brisk pace, and Fliakos instills a real sense of urgency as the danger increases; characters are faithful types; action-packed story line; strong sense of place; classic western dialog and description with engaging style and homespun language; dramatic and ultimately upbeat tone. There are still a lot of Western fans out there, and these excellent recordings from Books on Tape provide another format for sharing L'Amour's storytelling skills.
