



Kilrone

Louis L'Amour

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When Major Frank Paddock and Barnes Kilrone were dashing young officers in Paris, they both fell in love with the same woman. But now they are men in exile in one of the harshest territories of the American West. It is against this inhospitable backdrop, where survival itself is a day-to-day struggle, that Paddock makes a fateful decision that will plunge both men into a headlong battle for their lives and the lives they're sworn to protect. As Paddock leads his company of soldiers in pursuit of a Bannock war party, Kilrone is left behind to guard the post's women and children. And before the day is over, one of them, outnumbered and outgunned, will be trapped in a fight to the finish....

From the Paperback edition.

Kilrone Details

Date : Published November 23rd 2004 by Bantam (first published October 1966)

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Author : Louis L'Amour

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From Reader Review Kilrone for online ebook

Randy Grossman says

I've read better books by L'Amour, but it still was pretty good. It just wasn't as compelling as some of his other stories, there weren't too many surprises in the story line, except possibly the concluding act. One thing I found a little interesting is that the story emphasized the military's defense of renegade Indians and I had recently finished "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee", which was strongly opposed to much of the Military activities against Indians of that time period. By "BMHAWN" standards the majority of Indians were taken out by the military in less then honorable ways. I am sure Louis L'Amour was a good student of the history of this time period and treated the Indian race fairly. In this story the Indians were the renegade type.

Carol and Gary Curtis says

Excellent book, in the classic L'Amour style. I found all the plot changes very enjoyable. The romance connection at the end was weak but no real problem. The major villian was dispatched in normal western fashion. Too bad Dog couldn't have met a similar fate.

Steven Walle says

This was an excellent western novel comparing the stratagies of the American soldiers to the stratagies and mindsets of the American Indian in a battle set in Montana. The author does a beautiful job describing scenery as well as campaign strategy. I recommend this book to all who like westerns. Enjoy and Be Blessed.
Diamond

Susan says

Western. Major Paddock wants to get out of the downward spiral in his career so takes a chance that the Indians won't attack the post when he is away chasing those who attacked M Troop. He leaves a post manned by a few non military, sick and those is the jail. Also leaves Kilrone,ex military, a drifter who brought the news of M Troop's problems.

Ryan Mishap says

The one name titles of so many books involve odd monikers of reluctant heroes, hard men, and fast draws...and the same three or four plots replicated again and again like house designs in a subdivision.

My dad loves all his books and I read over a hundred while staving off the night terrors when growing up.

It is a strange fact about the old west, Indians, and the genocidal take over of the land now called the United

States that fiction writing about them is often taken for truth (see Ward Churchill's Fantasies of the Master Race). The back of almost every L'amour novel lauds his knowledge of "how it really was" and the fact that he could've been one of the tough, honorable, lonely fighting men he wrote about. This is complete crap. L'amour was a seller of fantasy, of lies, and of ideals that white men like to think they possess. He uses Indians simultaneously as "noble warriors" and "bloodthirsty savages" and justifies the take over of their land with the old "their time was passing..." illogic--as if there wasn't an agent behind their passing. Reading one of his novels, one gets the feeling he never did any research required of historical novels. Details are always vague. Little reference is made to historical events, ways of doing things, or period details that would lend credence to his imaginings. His stories could just as easily been set on Mars for all the research that shows through his writing. But Americans are already disposed to believing all this romantic Old West bullshit, so you don't have to try very hard. When a writer taps into our national myths, they don't have to be accurate or true, because most of our national myths are lies already believed.

kate says

A soft 4

Violet says

This is not a large book ... 152 pages in the pocket book edition, but another good shootem up story of a dispute between the soldiers, indians, and settlers. The hero is Kilrone, an ex Army Captain. Fun reading.

John says

A nice easy read. Lots of action. However, it felt like the author had lost interest and failed to develop some of the characters.

Fredrick Danysh says

Kilrone is a former army officer roaming the West. After finding a massacred troop of cavalry, he sets out to warn the nearest military post. There an alcoholic major assumes command and decides to ride on a rescue mission to advance his stalled career leaving Kilrone and a handful of men to defend the post with its dependents and supplies. This is an engrossing tale by the master of Western fiction.

Randy Tramp says

Major Frank Paddock and Barnes Kilrone, officers in Paris, fall in love with the same woman.

Both find themselves in the American West.

Paddock leads a company of soldiers in pursuit of an Indian war party leaving the post of women and children unprotected, except for Kilrone.

The first part of the book was preparation for the second. Tension filled the air as Kilrone prepared for an attack.

The build up slow, the action easy. Until the war party descended upon the post. When the bullets started flying the pace quickened.

I love how L'Amour puts you right in the middle of the action, whether it's waiting for the attack or in the midst of it.

And.

I enjoy the main characters. The good guys are tough and loyal. It's the reason I enjoy these books so much, Kilrone being no different.

Jefferson Coombs says

In 2004, after my divorce, I needed easy reads to keep my mind working but not something that required a ton of concentration. I chose L'Amour. It was a good choice most of his books, including this one, provide fast stories that are easy to follow with lots of action.

Allison says

This was the first western novel I've read. The early pages were slow but the main battle scene was pretty good. I found myself reading as fast as I could once it started. The Indians were the most interesting part. They were patient and clever, but also courageous and lethal. They would jump in and do some damage, then vanish for hours, leaving the looming question of what they were planning and when they would strike next.

I didn't care much for the main characters who seemed to float above everything, remaining miraculously untouched despite their daring and sometimes stupid acts of heroism. I kept waiting for something, anything to happen to them, but nothing ever did. This was a little disappointing, but talking to other people, it sounds like this isn't always the case in L'Amour's stories.

Overall, I liked Kilrone, but nothing happened that was particularly unexpected. There were no reversals or upsets and L'Amour neatly tied up all the loose ends by the last page. I'd read something by L'Amour again, probably something from his later years. I'm curious to try his science fiction. Maybe I'll start there.

Robynn says

Maybe I shouldn't read these all in a row. It does provide a study in formulaic writing, but that wasn't my intention.

I liked this one. It was fast, not too head-hoppy, and not too "pages of repeated back-story because either the

author didn't remember he already told this or the audience isn't smart enough to remember so he should repeat." Four pages of the final boxing scene were a bit much.

I wonder if some of these books were written so fast they didn't go through edits. The later ones tend to read that way. Perhaps that's a perk of being famous.

Wilson E. Stevens Sr. says

Good book, interesting read. More realistic than some of his works, and overall I would enjoy reading it again.

Warren Nast says

Louis L'amour at his best. I read this on my lunch breaks and looked forward to it everyday and was sad to have it end. I felt like I was back in the west. I just love his books and the characters he has.

Men are expected to be men and your word mean something.

Frontier woman are tough and add something to a man's life.

The pieces of history.

The lore that is sprinkled through the books.

No sex.

The violence means something.

People fighting to overcome great odds.

Good stuff.
