

WESTERN

Compton, Ralph

The Chisholm Trail (1993)

Armed with only a Colt rifle, a Bowie knife, and courage as big as the West, Ted Chisholm, the bold, half-breed son of Indian scout Jesse Chisholm, leaves New Orleans with a price on his head. His only crime--loving the beautiful daughter of a powerful New Orleans gambler. With a team of battle-toughened cowboys and ex-soldiers, and a vow to return to Priscilla and make her his wife, Ten rides into the harsh Texas brakes and the heart of Comanche country. (*Traditional Western*) JFS

Doctorow, E. L.

Welcome to Hard Times (1960)

The story of a small town in Dakota Territory and its people: an evil man who destroys the town of Hard Times; a mayor who is too weak to kill him, but who is hopeful enough to rebuild the town; and a woman who waits in terror and hatred, for the evil man to return. (*Revisionist Western*) JFS

Grey, Zane

Riders of the Purple Sage (1912)

A woman stands accused and a man is sentenced to whipping. Into this travesty of small-town justice rides the one man whom the town elders fear. His name is Lassiter, and he is a notorious gunman who's come to avenge his sister's death. It doesn't take Lassiter long to see that this once peaceful Mormon community is controlled by the corrupt Deacon Tull, a powerful elder who's trying to take the woman's land by forcing her to marry him, branding her foreman as a dangerous 'outsider'. (*Traditional Western*) BM

Hockensmith, Steven

Holmes on the Range (2006)

1893 is a tough year in Montana, and any job is a good job. When brothers Big Red and Old Red Amlingmeyer sign on as ranch hands at a secretive ranch, they're not expecting much more than hard work, bad pay, and a few free moments to enjoy their favorite pastime: reading stories about Sherlock Holmes. When another hand turns up dead, Old Red sees the perfect opportunity to employ his Holmes-inspired "deducifyin'" skills and sets out to solve the case. Big Red, like it or not (and mostly he does not), is along for the wild ride in this clever, compelling, and completely one-of-a-kind mystery. (*Mysterious Western*) MR

Kelton, Elmer

The Day the Cowboys Quit (1971)

The time is 1883, the place is the Texas Panhandle. Cowboys refuse to be stigmatized as drinkers and exploited by the wealthy cattle owners who don't pay livable wages. Those very same ranchers want to take away the cowboys' right to own cattle because this ownership, the ranchers believe, would lead to thieving. So, in 1883, the dictum is set: If you're a cowboy, you can't own a cow. When rumors of such legislation travel from wagon to wagon, the cowboys decided to rally and fight for their rights--they gather together and strike. (*Historical*) JFS

L'Amour, Louis

The Californios (1974)

The only hope that Eileen Mulkerin and her sons have of saving their ranch lies in finding a hidden cache of gold whose location was known only to her dead husband. (*California, Gold Mining*) JK

L'Amour, Louis

Hondo (1953)

He was a man etched by the desert's howling winds, a big, broad-shouldered man who knew the ways of the Apache and ways of staying alive. She was a woman raising a young son on her own on a remote Arizona ranch. And between Hondo Lane and Angie Lowe was the warrior Vittorio, whose people were preparing to rise against the white men. Now the pioneer woman, the gunman, and the Apache warrior are caught in a drama of love, war, and honor. (*Western Stories*) AS

Keeseey, Anna

Little Century (2012)

In the lawless frontier town of Century, Oregon, Esther Chamber is met by her distant cousin, a laconic cattle rancher named Ferris Pickett. But this town on the edge of civilization is in the midst of a very real range war, in a story of dispossession, greed, and ecstatic visions of America. (*Western Stories, Historical*) AS

King, Stephen

The Gunslinger (1988)

Roland of Gilead is the last gunslinger, a haunting figure. A loner on a spellbinding journey into good and evil. In his desolate world, which frighteningly mirrors our own, Roland pursues the man in black, encounters an alluring woman named Alice and begins a friendship with the boy from New York called Jake. (*Weird Westerns*) AS

Lee, Stacey

Under a Painted Sky (2015)

In 1849, Sammy, a Chinese American girl, and Annamae, an African American slave girl, disguise themselves as boys and travel on the Oregon Trail to California from Missouri. (*Young Adult, Oregon Trail*) BM

McMurtry, Larry

The Last Kind Words Saloon (2014)

Traces the rich and varied friendship of Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday from the town of Long Grass to Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Denver, then to Mobetie, Texas, and finally to Tombstone, Arizona, culminating with the famed gunfight at the O.K. Corral. (*Rooted in Reality*) MR

Paine, Luran

The Open Range Men (1990)

The West is changing, and Boss Spearman and his crew are among the last of the "freegrazers"--open range cattlemen--and the folks of Harmonville are openly hostile. So hostile that they look the other way when two of Spearman's crew are murdered and a young cowhand seriously wounded. The local marshal is in on the killings, so Spearman and his top hand, Charlie Waite, decide that if justice is to be served, they'll have to be the ones dishing it up. A typically fine novel from Paine, one of the most consistently rewarding of the western novelists. (*Texas, Range War*) JK

Portis, Charles

True Grit (1968)

With her papa's pistol tied to her saddlehorn and a supersized ration of audacity, fourteen-year-old Mattie Ross sets out to avenge her father's murder. (*Arkansas, Vendetta*) JK

Wister, Owen

The Virginian: A Horseman of the Plains (1902)

The Virginian cuts an impressive figure when the unnamed narrator of Owen Wister's groundbreaking novel first encounters him in Medicine Bow, Wyoming. Dark-haired and physically imposing, the charismatic Virginian quickly befriends the narrator, whom he nicknames "the tenderfoot," and the two embark on a three-hundred-mile journey to the ranch where the Virginian works. Life on the frontier is unforgiving—filled with hardship and violence—and as they travel together, the tenderfoot recognizes all the ways in which the stoic and principled Virginian exemplifies the heroism and romance of life in the Wild West. (*Traditional Western*) MR

Webb, Phillip

Where the Rock Splits the Sky (2014)

Long after the Visitors split the moon and stopped Earth from turning, Megan and two friends mount their horses and set out across the Zone, where laws of nature do not apply, hoping to solve the mystery of her missing father and of the paralyzed planet itself. (*Young Adult, Science Fiction Genreblend*) BM