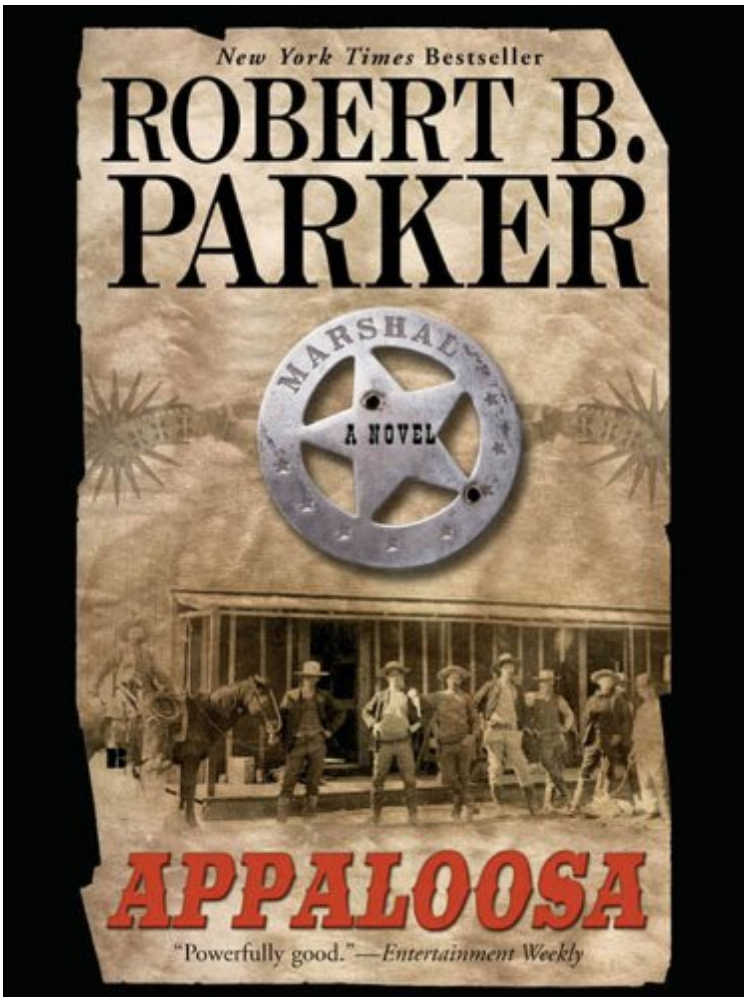


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Appaloosa



Par Robert B. Parker
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Par Robert B. Parker : Appaloosa before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Appaloosa:

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Description : Description du produitA richly imagined novel of the Old West, as spare and vivid as a high plains sunset, from one of the world's most talented performers. It was a long time ago, now, and there were many gunfights to follow, but I remember as well as I remember anything the first time I saw Virgil Cole shoot. Time slowed down for him. Always steady, and never fast . . . When it comes to writing, Robert B. Parker knows no boundaries. From the iconic Spenser detective series and the novels featuring Sunny Randall and Jesse Stone, to the groundbreaking historical novel Double Play, Parker's imagination has taken readers from Boston to Brooklyn and back again. In Appaloosa, fans are taken on another trip, to the untamed territories of the West during the 1800s. When Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch arrive in Appaloosa, they find a small, dusty town suffering at the hands of renegade rancher Randall Bragg, a man who has so little regard for the law that he has taken supplies, horses, and women for his own and left the city marshal and one of his deputies for dead. Cole and Hitch, itinerant lawmen, are used to cleaning up after opportunistic thieves, but in Bragg they find an unusually wily adversary-one who raises the stakes by playing not with the rules, but with emotions. This is Robert B. Parker at his storytelling best.

Prsentation de l'diteurWhen Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch arrive in Appaloosa, they find a town suffering at the hands of a renegade rancher whos already left the city marshal and one of his deputies dead. Cole and Hitch are used to cleaning up after scavengers, but this one raises the stakes by playing not with the rulesbut with emotion.Watch a QuickTime trailer for this book.From Publishers WeeklyStarred . It's been years since

Parker has won a major literary award for a novel (he did collect a Grand Master trophy from MWA in 2002), but that may change with this stunning western, a serious contender for a Spur. This is only Parker's second western, after the Wyatt Earp story *Gunman's Rhapsody* (or third if you count the Spenser PI quasi-western *Potshot*), but he takes command of the genre, telling an indelible story of two Old West lawmen.

The chief one is Virgil Cole, new marshal of the mining/ranching town of Appaloosa (probably in Colorado); his deputy is Everett Hitch, and it's Hitch who tells the tale, playing Watson to Cole's Holmes.

The novel's outline is classic western: Cole and Hitch take on the corrupt rancher, Randall Bragg, who ordered the killing of the previous marshal and his deputy. Bragg is arrested, tried and sentenced to be hung, but hired guns bust him out, leading to a long chase through Indian territory, a traditional high noon (albeit at 2:41 p.m.) shootout between Cole's men and Bragg's, a further escape and, at book's end, a final

showdown. Along the way, Cole falls for a piano-playing beauty with a malevolent heart, whose manipulations lead to that final, fatal confrontation. With such familiar elements, Parker breaks no new ground. What he does, and to a magnificent degree, is to invest classic tropes with vigor, through depth of character revealed by a glance, a gesture or even silence. A consummate pro, Parker never tells, always shows, through writing that's bone clean and through a superb transferal of the moral issues of his acclaimed mysteries (e.g., the importance of honor) to the western. This is one of Parker's finest. Agent, Helen Brann.

(June)From AudioFileThe town of Appaloosa is in a world of hurt as Randall Bragg and his brutal ranch hands rule. Lawmen Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch aim to take back the town. Parker's talent for amplifying meaning from just a few words shines here. Cole and Hitch are complex characters--hard, violent men who

live by a strict code of honor. Despite the sparse dialogue, patient listeners will fully grasp the depth of respect and trust these men share. Reader Titus Welliver is the perfect voice: deep, resonant, sometimes as gritty as a sandstorm. With a cadence that matches the nineteenth-century pace of life, his storytelling is just right for this first-person narrative. Listen carefully. Don't miss a word. T.J.M. Winner of AudioFile

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