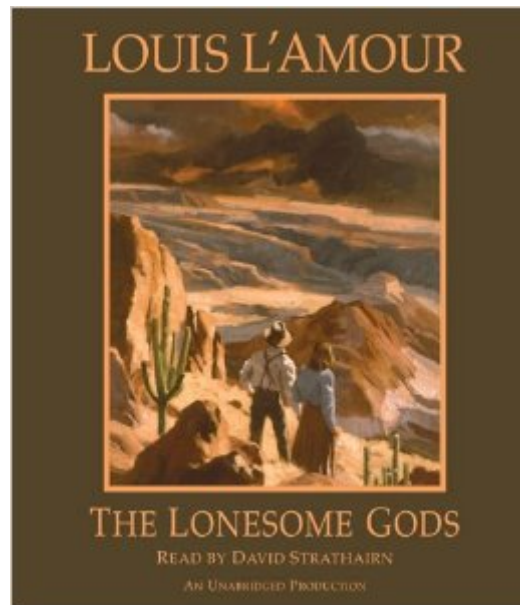


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The Lonesome Gods



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.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Unabridged edition (January 25, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307737586

ISBN-13: 978-0307737588

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.2 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (162 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I’m a big fan of Louis L’amour but, ultimately, I found "The Lonesome Gods" to be a rather mediocre effort. It suffers from an excess of historical data which, while interesting, doesn’t really serve to advance the plot, weak character development, and an ending that’s just a little too pat. The story moves along at a good pace at first with the tale of how Johannes Verne’s dying father brought him west in the hopes that his estranged grandfather would take the boy in once his father passed on. However, once Johannes reach Los Angeles the story slows down considerably. At this point not a lot is happening with his characters so L’amour glosses over the passage of large spans of time and spends a great deal of time presenting historical information about the early years of the city but most of it isn’t really relevant to the story. The result is that the story becomes bogged down in useless data that doesn’t do anything to advance the plot. Making matters worse, I found his

handling of the passage of time to be somewhat disorienting and on more than one occasion I found myself wondering if it had just been a few days or a few years since something had happened in the story. Usually I feel that L'amour is pretty good about developing his characters within the constraints allowed by his stories. Unfortunately that's not the case here. The only character to really feel fully fleshed out is Johannes, though the elder Verne and Miss Nesselrode are also fairly well presented. Everyone else is just sort of presented in a peripheral manner and never really achieve a status above stock character types.

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