



Resolution

Robert B. Parker

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Features the main characters first introduced in Appaloosa- now a major motion picture from New Line Cinema.

A greedy mine owner threatens the coalition of local ranchers in the town of Resolution, pitching two honorable gunfighters, Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch, into a make-shift war that'll challenge their friendship - and the violently shifting laws of the West.

Resolution Details

Date : Published (first published 2008)

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Author : Robert B. Parker

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Cheryl says

Dissapointing! I loved the first book in this series, Appaloosa. This book, number 2 in the series, was not as good. The plot was a bit boring, and the dialogue wasn't as interesting. It almost seemed like a first draft of the book. I abandoned it at the half-way mark, so maybe the second half was better. I wasn't interested enough to stick around and find out.

Cherie says

No fluff. Lots of "He said" and "I said". Some f*** words. Some bad guys and some not so bad guys. The end.

Great story.

Doesn't take long to read but I put it down and didn't back to it for awhile.

Mike (the Paladin) says

I'm enjoying this series. Here we build on the way the last book ended (also of course building on the events in the last book).

Everett having ridden out of Appaloosa after taking a certain precipitous action on behalf of his friend Virgil opens the book by taking a job in a saloon as a "lookout" (read bouncer...except bouncers here can end up having to shoot a troublemaker).

From there things begin to spin. Of course Virgil does show up...violence ensues as do moral quandaries.

(Yes in case you think I missed it because i didn't mention it in my last review I get the double meaning in the title[s]).

Anyway, excellent read. The dialogue is terse and direct (as befits a western). Some of our characters are of course talkers, but our heroes are mostly men of few words. I don't mind the way that works and I'm enjoying these.

I only regret that Mr. Parker is gone and there are only 6.

Recommended, enjoy.

Eric says

Unlike most middle books in a trilogy, which are usually the weakest of the whole, this book -- the middle book in the Virgil Cole/Everett Hitch trilogy -- is the strongest of Parker's western trilogy, all three of which are so enjoyable that I read each in a single sitting.

I didn't actually know that Robert B. Parker had written a sequel to Appaloosa until my father told me he read this book, and mentioned how much he liked Virgil Cole's character, which made me realize it must be related to Appaloosa in some way.

Mark says

Robert B Parker well known for his creation of PI Spenser and side kick Hawk and the cool chief of police from Paradise Jesse Stone did also create a couple of characters that lived in the Wild West and could be called gunfighters by the name of Virgil Cole & Everett Hitch.

Hitch has taken a job as an outlook in the local bar of the town/village/settlement by the name of Resolution. There is a disagreement about who is the law in this particular place by the name Resolution. There is no sheriff or any law, hence the job of outlook in the local saloon which is taken by Hitch who is on his own by this time. And after he takes out the gunfighter employed by the local copper mine owner everything changes. The balance of the power seems to shift. When Virgil Cole finally shows his face in Resolution and two other gunfighters hired by the owner of the copper mine trouble will follow soon.

The book is mostly about justice, law and how it works when there is none and the powerful and power-hungry start to think that they are the law and justice. They did not count on the morality of gunfighters the levels of stupid that is combined with some serious overestimation of their own skills.

A lot of talking which is Parkers forte and some sharp action. Not the usual western you might expect and the macho grandstanding is closer to Spenser & chief Stone than what one would expect from gunslingers in a male dominated world.

A nice comfy read that can easily be read in many short moments.

Jeff says

Yee Haw!! Spenser, the detective, goes West!

Or so it seems.

In this one, Robert B. Parker unsuccessfully tries to squeeze Spenser's man code into cowboy britches and a ten gallon hat. This was probably written during Parker's "fallow" period. Most things that became nauseating with his detective fiction around that time -- formulaic plotting, slow plodding story, hackneyed characterizations -- bleed into this turn at a western. Every time I read the clipped, macho pro-forma dialogue I thought: Hawk, Spenser, Coalition of Bruisers with Boundaries.

“Ain’t we got unwritten manly rules ‘bout this here killin’ thing?”

“Yep.”

If you want a better book featuring these characters pick up **Appaloosa**, which was made into a decent movie. If you want to read a great western, go get **Lonesome Dove**.

And thanks for not bringing along the malnourished, Harvard educated, psychiatrist girlfriend character.

Susan Johnson says

My son and I listened to this in the car on our way to the grandkids. Parker's sparse prose is perfect for a car trip. The characters are basically Spenser and Hawk in western times. Nice to listen to but I prefer Spenser.

Mike (the Paladin) says

I'm enjoying this series. Here we build on the way the last book ended (also of course building on the events in the last book).

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Kemper says

Parker is just repeating himself in his mysteries and westerns by rehashing the same tired macho characters who live by the gunman's code that anyone who has read anything he's done in the last 20 years knows by heart. Even worse, the ending of Apaloosa was the first halfway original thing he'd done in years, and he

reverses it in this book to get everything back to his usual baseline. Whatever happened to the guy who wrote the first dozen or so Spenser novels? Oh, and he really needs to drop the repeated story about a flawed woman that a character loves.

Jesse A says

A solid western. Rehashed somewhat from Appaloosa but still entertaining.

Fred Shaw says

Resolution (Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch #2). This was an entertaining western but I thought the first one was better. Gonna read 1 more in the series and give it a go.

Eric_W says

Audiobook: Excellent western following Appaloosa in the Hitch/Cole series. I especially love the cadence of Parker's writing that is very similar to his Jesse Stone series, one of my Stone's favorites. Hitch, who resembles Stone in many ways, has arrived at the town of Resolution where he takes the job of 'lookout' in a saloon/whorehouse. He establishes his credentials very soon by killing the local gunfighter and then, to his employer's consternation begins defending the local whores from brutes, several of whom are "important" people.

It gets complicated when the saloon's owner, who also owns the general store, begins to close out on some homesteaders whose debts have become intolerable. He wants their land. And then the local mine owner hires two gunslingers and *he* wants the saloon.

Hitch and Cole are not your average gunslingers. Hitch a graduate of West Point and Cole occasionally talks about John Locke. "The law is a contract between government and the people, so when we was the law in Appaloosa were we the government or the people?" asks Cole of Hitch. Good question. The issue arises once again in Resolution.

Perfectly read by Titus Welliver.

Carmen says

I dont read a lot of westerns but I may start. I enjoyed the descriptions of Virgil, his uncanniness, his intensity and strangely enough, his code of justice and noblesse oblige.

Several aspects of the book stand out: the portrayal of gunmen not as psychotic serial killers but as men laboring in a trade. As per their job, they acquire a set of skills and abilities, but also unseen scars and handicaps. I found this aspect fascinating because Parker eschews both the standard macho man mystique and the wounded victims creating more victims route. Instead what he offers up is an analysis of men who have had to survive and this is their chosen route.

One of the more charming aspects of the book is the way Virgil muses over the books he reads: Locke, Rousseau, Emerson. In an interesting inversion I found at first this implausible, but the reality was such books were often available in this era and everyday people read them.

An underlying theme to the book was the place of law and the role of lawmen. Where does the law end and the human being emerge? A question Virgil chews over like a wad of tobacco, badgering his amiable and reliable partner Everett Hitch.

A buddy novel, an adventure, a traditional old west tale of big greedy bosses, little sodbusters, and hired gunmen. But some intelligent spins and surprises.

Cyndi says

I do love a good western. In this one our dynamic duo have parted company in the beginning. Hitch arrives in the small town of Resolution and is hired to protect the interest of a rich jerk. Soon Hitch is back to keeping the peace and protecting the good guys.

About the time things start to heat up, Cole joins him. Cole is chasing after his lover who left him for a traveling salesman.

Before long the two are battling renegade Shoshones, gunmen and a militant gang. Meanwhile they are protecting homesteaders, abused prostitutes and an abused wife.

All in a days work for our intrepid cowboys.

Jason Koivu says

A new version of the good old fashioned western shoot 'em up!

In book two of Robert Parker's Virgil Cole & Everett Hitch series Hitch and Cole have moved on from Appaloosa and wind up as hired hands for an ambitious man looking to gobble up all the land and properties in and around the town of Resolution.

In this world where life is cheap this manly tale of manly men doing manly deeds is violent as all get out. People get shot or at least beaten every few pages. Our so-called heroes' way of fixing any and all problems is to threaten death. It's a little ridiculous and redundant, but hell, it's all in good fun! I suggest just sitting back and enjoying the action, for this is a treat of a romp back to the good ol' days of westerns, where a shotgun or six shooter was all the answer one needed to solve life's difficulties.
