



Strike of the Mountain Man

William W. Johnstone, J.A. Johnstone

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The Greatest Western Writer Of The 21st CenturyIn Colorado Territory, Smoke Jensen is trying to live at peace with the big, beautiful world around him. Then a tinhorn named Puddle enters his valley--and unleashes a hellstorm of a range war.

Then The Shooting Started

Malcolm Theodore Puddle is a 21-year shipping clerk--from way back East. What is he doing out here? The Mountain Man's former neighbor, Humbolt Puddle, has died and left his crumbling 600-acre ranch to his only living heir, just as a greedy and ruthless cattle baron is circling the Humbolt ranch like a ravenous vulture. Poor, unsuspecting Puddle is walking into a death trap. Smoke is the not the pitying kind. But any enemy of Smoke's neighbor is his enemy, too: kill-crazy hired gunmen are threatening the whole valley and good men are dying. Puddle may not be much, but he's all Smoke has--as a take-no-prisoners mountain man and a timid tinhorn make for an army of two...in one hell of a fight.

Strike of the Mountain Man Details

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Sharon I childers says

Strike of the Mountain Man

It was a great book .I have read others by Johnstone. They are all great book .hope you enjoy asI did .

Tori says

The last, and one of the best in this wonderful series, well done!! Wonderful characters, well developed, lots of action!

Billy G. Crow says

9th 9th and a s d eleting is one that is not the case of a great time to get to the bottom of the 3

Check out the new one of those things where the same way that I could not find any other way to do this for you

Randy says

Smoke Jensen helps some of the smaller ranchers in the valley when a wealthy Frenchman, Colonel The Marquis Lucien Garneau, starts buying up the smaller ranches. His aim is to be the biggest rancher in the area which means he has to outgrow Smoke's ranch.

His real name is Pierre Mouchette, a French army officer who'd stolen two and a half million Francs, half a million American, and murdered his sergeant, chosen by him for a resemblance to himself, passing him off as himself by burning his face and switching clothes.

Then off to America.

Unfortunately, the smaller ranchers surrounding him aren't willing to sell. He begins a campaign to get those properties any way he can: intimidation so he can buy them cheap, paying taxes where he gets the property for next to nothing, outright murder and kidnapping, though all where he can't be blamed.

One ploy involves murdering the man holding them all together, a rancher named Humboldt Puddle. Smoke hears the shots and comes to the rescue, to late to save Puddle, but in time to kill most of the killers and promise the dying man he'd take his will in and get it to the proper authorities. He's leaving it all to a young nephew back East, Malcolm Theodore Puddle.

When he arrives, after sending a telegram authorizing Smoke to pay due taxes, \$200, to keep the Frenchman from gaining control. When the young man arrives, he appears helpless, dressed as a dandy, but there's starch in the boy. Though having never fired a gun, he had boxed before and could handle himself a bit. Smoke would take care of the gun part, drilling him in the use.

It's Smoke, young Puddle, and a few small ranchers against an army of killers.

Quite liked this one and one thing brought a smile to my face. There's a theater in Big Rock where a piano concert happens. It's called the Reasoner Theater and is owned by a man named James Reasoner.

Nice touch

Violet says

My first impression was that this was the same old theme of one man buying a ranch with the intent of forcing his neighbors out so that he could buy them out and increase his holdings ... and it is. There is a little difference, tho, with the bad guy first coming on the scene in France. As a French Army disbursement officer he acquires 2.5 million francs meant to be transferred from Paris to Dijon, steals the money, murders and disguises a sergeant so the authorities think it is he that was killed, goes to Switzerland and exchanges the francs for American dollars and heads for the U.S. His purchase of a ranch is legit, but forcing his neighbors to sell to him is not, and that is the rest of the story. Smoke Jensen and his friends are in the way.

Bob says

Smoke Jensen vs Frenchman

Richard Astle says

As always a riveting read

Donald Houston says

Smome Jensen yarns are the best!

True to fork Johnstone has produced a really great yarn Good storyline, good action...a good read! Enjoyable as always in my mind!

Kevin Beck says

Another excellent adventure with Smoke and crew.

Randy says

Excellent Book

Fay Bassett says

This was a good read. I would like to read more of his books. Nothing like a good Western.

Diane says

I love these Mountain Man books - and luckily for me, there are A LOT of them! This one is clean, easy to read, and has a great plot - could anyone ask for more?
