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~Annotations courtesy of NoveList~
**Traditional Westerns:** Primarily set in the Western United States from the end of the Civil War to the beginning of the 20th Century. Westerns feature the exploits of cowboys, scouts, Indians, gunslingers, and lawmen. The mythic feel of the West and those times, as well as the struggle to survive against myriad dangers, takes precedence over historical accuracy.

**The Big Sky** by A.B. Guthrie. Young Boone Caudill flees his abusive father in Kentucky and becomes a mountain man in the rugged West.

**Bugles in the Afternoon** by Ernest Haycox. A member of General Custer’s army wonders about the choices of his commander. Lots of historical and military detail!

**The Hanging Tree** by Dorothy M. Johnson. Western short stories to enjoy by the author of “The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance”.

**Law of the Gun** edited by Martin H. Greenberg. This action-packed collection of westerns, from some of the greatest writers of the genre, includes award-winning author Jonny Bogg’s “The Trouble with Dude.” in which some high-paying New York gentleman, searching for adventure on the wild frontier, get more than they bargained for.

**The Man from Yesterday** by Wayne D. Overholser. As a young man, Neal Clark killed some outlaws and wounded another during a bank robbery. Eight years later and President of the bank, he’s receiving menacing threats from the outlaws’ family while trying to prevent his friends from investing in what he believes is a bogus irrigation scheme.

**The Ox-Bow Incident** by Walter Van Tilburg Clark. When cattle rustlers murder a citizen of Bridger’s Gulch, others form a posse and illegally lynch them.

**Shane** by Jack Schaefer. An unforgettable novel of a boy’s love and gunman’s struggle to escape his past.

**Six Ways from Sunday** by William W. Johnstone. In a lawless Montana mining district, Cotton Pickens finds himself facing off against a hardheaded fellow named Carter Scruples while trying to protect a beautiful young widow.

**True Grit** by Charles Portis. 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.

**Classic Western Authors:**
Louis L’Amour; Zane Grey; Elmer Kelton; Max Brand; Loren D. Estleman; William W. Johnstone

**Novels of the West:** The setting and ethos of the West are most important in these more literary novels. Many include multiple plotlines that take place over a longer period of time and their focus is on the people who came and stayed.

**All the Pretty Horses** by Cormac McCarthy. Cut off from the life of ranching he has come to love by his grandfather’s death, John Grady Cole flees to Mexico, where he and his two companions embark on a rugged and cruelly idyllic adventure.

**Beyond the Stars** by Davaid William Ross. Three white men traveling across the Great Plains in search of gold witness the Sioux, Crow, and Blackfeet as they make war with each other, and their enemies from the East.

**The Hearts of Horses** by Molly Gloss. In the winter of 1917, with many of his regular hands off fighting in World War I, George Bliss hires young Martha Lessen to help gentle wild horses, and as she demonstrates her unique talent for dealing with damaged horses, she finds a sense of family and belonging.

**Lonesome Dove** by Larry McMurtry. Former Texas Rangers leave their unsuccessful cattle business when they hear of good opportunities in newly opened territory.

**Nails** by Peter Bowen. In contemporary Montana, Gabriel Du Pre finds his investigation of a missing girl complicated by the arrival of a group of protesting fundamentalist Christians and the return of his precocious granddaughter from school in Washington, D.C.

**Whistling Season** by Ivan Doig. Hired as a housekeeper to work on the early 1900s Montana homestead of widower Oliver Milliron, the irreverent Rose and her brother, Morris, endeavor to educate the widower’s sons while witnessing local efforts on a massive irrigation project.

**Try Others by These Authors!**