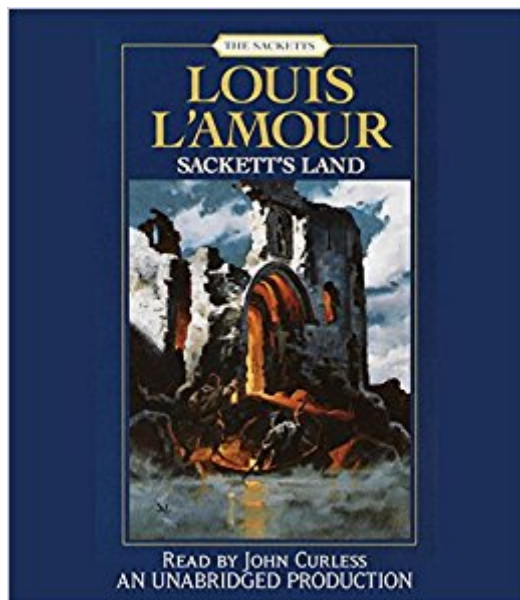


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Sackett's Land (Louis L'Amour)



Synopsis

After discovering six gold Roman coins buried in the mud of the Devil's Dyke, Barnabas Sackett enthusiastically invests in goods that he will offer for trade in America. But Sackett has a powerful enemy: Rupert Genester, nephew of an earl, wants him dead. A battlefield promise made to Sackett's father threatens Genester's inheritance. So on the eve of his departure for America, Sackett is attacked and thrown into the hold of a pirate ship. Genester's orders are for him to disappear into the waters of the Atlantic. But after managing to escape, Sackett makes his way to the Carolina coast. He sees in the raw, abundant land the promise of a bright future. But before that dream can be realized, he must first return to England and discover the secret of his father's legacy. From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Son of a feared fighting man, Barnabas Sackett inherited his father's fiery temper, sense of justice and warrior skills. Declared an outlaw in his native England, Barnabas set his daring sights on the opportunities of the New World. The ruthless piracy of the open seas and the unknown dangers of the savage American wilderness lay before him. And so did the thrill of discovery and the chance to establish a bold new future if he survived. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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and warrior skills. Declared an outlaw in his native England, Barnabas set his daring sights on the opportunities of the New World. The ruthless piracy of the open seas and the unknown dangers of the savage American wilderness lay before him. And so did the thrill of discovery and the chance to establish a bold new future if he survived. "From the Paperback edition.

I last read this book over three decades ago; I feared it wouldn't hold up to my memories. I needn't have feared as there is a reason this is a classic. While this has the feel of a Western (intrepid young hero, beautiful girl, vile villains, fights, wild frontier), the primary characters are English, the frontier is the unexplored North Carolina coast, the fights use Elizabethan weapons, and the "steeds" are ships. Never fear, the language used is modern English, not Elizabethan, and the tale is a rollicking good one. You know that our hero will prevail (in what L'Amour book does he not?) so the question is how. When this was originally published, books in the series that happened chronologically later had been written, so this is filling in the background to the Sackett family. I still love the book, not just because of the notion that the coastline of the Carolinas is wild frontier, but because of the independence of the main character. Barnabas is a clue to the Sacketts in the later books.

Louis L'Amour writes very engaging books. This varies from his standard novels. This is the beginning of a multi-novel series about one family, the Sacketts. It begins in England and progresses to America during the age of exploration. What I have loved about his other novels is their sense of place, the dryness and desolation of the west in the 1800's which is so palpable you really feel as though you are there. That is lacking in this novel. Yes, the plot is interesting and there is a sense of England, and particularly London at that time. It is not as riveting as many of his other works. However, if you are going to start a work that is akin to the Icelandic sagas, you have to start somewhere as an anchor and this is an appropriate place and time. It is just not the best of the Sackett series. I would not skip it in favor for books later in the series, only know that better lies a little further down the road.

Not a western fan, I stayed clear of books by Louis L'Amour. An erroneous assumption, as this is not a western at all, but a book about the frontier of the 1500s. I fell right in with the constant fast-paced action, the devil-may-care escapades, and the characters ebullient optimism while teetering on the brink of disaster. I rooted for them and booed the nasty antagonists. As the story progressed, I found the author's exquisite landscape descriptions mesmerizing, and I became

almost more intimate with the setting than with any of the characters. The book reads as if written for young readers or those who enjoy being swept along without much regard to plausibility or depth of character, the two areas I found lacking. Barnabas Sackett was entirely too fortunate in his pick of playmates. Jublain, who without any lead-in, immediately becomes Barnabas' BFF. One would think Barnabas would at the very least ask him who he is and why he was helping. Why was Jublain's horse stashed in the woods? How did Rupert know where to find Barnabas in the fens? Questions without answers. Outnumbered and outgunned heroes always prevailed, escaping with mere scratches or torn shirt sleeves, and always finding the most perfect of hiding places. That the characters were a bit shallow is fine, though, with this type of story. The story is driven along by the plot and not any underlying subtext or angst pulling at the characters. Regardless of the above issues, I enjoyed this fun and fast read.

My grandpa read L'Amour's frontier stories to me when I was a wee gal sitting at his knee on the back porch of his West Virginia home so this is technically a nostalgic re-reading for me. This is the story of Barnabas, the grand-sire of The Sackett legacy, and how forces beyond his control wrangled the young man from the English fens to set him on the western path to America. An evolved dime-novel with fast-paced action and a hero whose can-do attitude always helps him win. L'Amour never intended to write literary wonders but told stories reminiscent of campfire tales or oral folklore. Sometimes outrageous and requiring suspended disbelief, this is a foray into pure imagination of bygone times.

Barnabas Sackett, an English landowner flees his home for American wilderness. It's hard not to like L'Amour's book. This one, filled with adventure, continually moved. Sometimes I found myself wondering what's going on and had to go back because I missed a key sentence. Sackett, like so many of L'Amour's characters, is loyal. He never backed down from a fight, which there were a lot of them in this read. It's a tough new land and Sackett intends on conquering it. I look forward to the next books, hoping the next one has a little more time on the ocean.

I am a romantic at heart and this story is a romance. Louis L'Amour writes stories about strong men and women. People who are willing to take a stand and make a difference. Most of his stories read like short stories and are quick reads. This one was no exception. He spends little time detailing looks or fashions, but on character and setting a time and a place. At times you feel like you are right there.

LOVE LOUIS L'AMOUR, EVERY THING I EVER READ OF HIS IS GREAT, THIS STARTS OFF HIS SACKETT BOOKS AND STARTS IN ENGLAND, TELLS OF A MANS JOURNEY TO A NEW LAND AND FALLING IN LOVE WITH A LADY, THE NEXT BOOK TELLS MORE OF HIS LIFE AND LATER BOOKS TELL THE PROGRESSION OF SACKETT'S FAMILY THROUGH THE YEARS INTO THE OLD WEST. LOUIS HAS A WAY OF TELLING A STORY THAT IS EASY AND INTERESTING TO READ, HE GETS YOU IMMERSED IN THE PEOPLE AND PLACES HE TELLS ABOUT.

I read this beginning of the Sackett family series many years ago and enjoyed it just as much now as then. Few authors can recreate a setting and time period as well as L'Amour. And his description of combat whether hand to hand or with weapons is incredibly real.

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