



Brules

By Harry Combs

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Cat Brules, whose life embraces the short, turbulent history of the American West, seeks revenge against the entire Comanche nation, finds love with a Shoshone woman, and must chose between becoming an outlaw or a hero.

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Brules By Harry Combs Bibliography

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- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In 1916, civil engineering student Steven Cartwright plays hooky from his father's fall cattle drive to visit Cat Brules, a mysterious Colorado mountain man rumored to be a thief and a murderer. The friendship between the boy and this relic of the rapidly disappearing frontier provides a frame for this fluid first novel, as Brules tells Steven the story of his life over a series of nights around the campfire. After a drive down the Chisholm Trail in 1867, Brules killed his trail boss in a fight over a Hays City, Kans., prostitute named Michelle. Fleeing town, the pair were captured by Comanches; Brules escaped, but Michelle was tortured and killed, setting her lover on a one-man vendetta against the Indians. Brules gradually overcomes his hatred, eventually marrying a Native American. The author, an aviation pioneer who wrote a nonfiction study of the Wright Brothers, *Kill Devil Hill*, clearly knows and loves the land and history of the American West. References to numerous actual people and events (Butch Cassidy, General Crook, the Fetterman massacre) add verisimilitude to his story. Although overly long and tending to drag in spots, this expansive novel will remind some readers of Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*.

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From Library Journal

The wide-open spaces of Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico during the years following the Civil War form the backdrop of this Western novel of bonanza proportions. In a highly colloquial voice, Cat Brules narrates a rich reminiscence of the Old West as he hunts buffalo and stalks Comanche Indians in revenge for their murder of his loved ones, constantly testing his considerable shooting skills. Combs, the author of an award-winning study of the Wright brothers (*Kill Devil Hill*, Houghton, LJ 12/15/79. o.p.), does a nice job of detailing the guns, wildlife, and Indian customs of the period. A paucity of dialog and a few too many repetitive Comanche episodes slightly mar the fun, but most readers of Westerns will still find the journey well worth the ride.

- *Keddy Ann Outlaw, Harris Cty. P.L., Houston*

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From [Booklist](#)

Before World War I, when 11-year-old Steven Cartwright was riding near his father's Colorado ranch, he encountered an old man living alone on Lone Cone Peak. Though the two barely exchanged a glance, the boy was fascinated and went out of his way to cross paths with the man again. A tentative relationship formed and came to fruition years later when the boy returned home on summer break from college. Through one long, lonesome mountain night, Cat Brules bared his soul to Steven, recounting his long, eventful life as a cow puncher, Indian fighter, gunman, and lover, from an 1867 cattle drive to Hays, Kansas, to the death of his beloved Shoshone wife, Wild Rose, in 1891 at the cabin where he still lives. This entertaining--if lengthy--saga of the Old West is enlivened by Brules' gallows humor and his stoic acceptance of life's vagaries. What sets the novel apart from the usual fare is its wide-ranging scope and the fact that first-time novelist Combs, an aviation pioneer and author of an award-winning study of the Wright brothers, is past 80. Yes, you can expect plenty of marketing hoopla designed to turn Combs into a cowboy version of Helen Hooven Santmyer, the octogenarian author of "*And Ladies of the Club*," the surprise best-seller of 1984. Like *Ladies*, *Brules* began life as a small-press title (Lyford Books, 1992), only to be picked up later by a major trade house. Marketing campaigns and Combs' age aside, the novel stands on its own quite well. Brules is a memorable character--sometimes admirable, sometimes not, but imbued with a sense of humanity that can only be gained through a lifetime of experience. *Wes Lukowsky*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jessica Kelly:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As we know that book is very important normally. The book Brules has been making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The guide Brules is not only giving you more new information but also to be your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship while using book Brules. You never sense lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Sherry Holsey:

Brules can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Brules nevertheless doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource details that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

Darlene Gutierrez:

The book untitled Brules contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy means. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new time of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice study.

Suzanne Robbins:

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