



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
- 695 pages

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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:

Herbert Beckley:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book is usually option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the e-book untitled Brules can be excellent book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

James Ponce:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Brules, you can enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout men. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Alfred Leahy:

Reading a book for being new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to read a book. When you learn a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read textbooks, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, and also soon. The Brules offer you a new experience in studying a book.

Sandra Lester:

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