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Read-Alikes for Zane Grey and Louis L'Amour

The problem with loving classic westerns is the limited supply! Try these authors when looking for a new western read, whether it's a new take on a classic, rediscovering a classic author, or a contemporary author reminiscence of classic westerns. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Most titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

Colt Family. Books 1-4 by Don Bendell

Read by Ray Foushee, Alec Volz, and Jon Huffman

34 hours, 42 minutes

The first four books in this series about Chief of Scouts Chris Colt, published between 1994 and 1996. In Coyote Run, a mining company will do anything to take over the Colts ranch. Also includes Warrior, Justis Colt, and Eagle. Some violence and some strong language. 1996.

[Download from BARD: Colt Family. Books 1-4](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB095276

Northfield: a Western Story by Johnny D Boggs

Read by Jim Zeiger

7 hours, 41 minutes

Fictional account of the 1876 robbery of the First National Bank in Northfield, Minnesota, by the James-Younger gang. The raid unfolds from various perspectives, including those of outlaws Frank and Jesse James, Sheriff James Glispin, the daughter of a murdered teller, and the gun-toting town residents. Some strong language. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Northfield a Western Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067254

Bull Hunter by Max Brand

Read by Jerry Fordyce

5 hours, 56 minutes

Bull Hunter, while a big kid, feels small in the eyes of his family. In an effort to stand tall, he sets out to get his uncle's murderer, a notorious gunfighter. But fate forges a strange alliance between the enemies, and Bull learns what it takes to be a real man. 1949.

[Download from BARD: Bull Hunter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB019950

The Lawman by Lyle Brandt

Read by Phil Torres

8 hours, 12 minutes

Roving gambler Jack Slade discovers that his identical twin brother, a western territory Oklahoma rancher whom he had not seen for several years, has died or been killed. Jack sets off to discover the parties responsible and along the way becomes acquainted with his brother's fiancée who now runs the ranch. Explicit descriptions of sex and some violence. 2007

[Download from BARD: The Lawman](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC016723

Bullet Creek: A Ralph Compton Novel by Peter Brandvold

Read by John Polk

7 hours, 27 minutes

Retired gunslinger Tom Navarro is content working as a foreman at the Bar-V ranch while saving to buy his own spread. But he returns to fighting mode when a local landowner's murder threatens to spark a range war. Some violence and some strong language. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Bullet Creek a Ralph Compton Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077020

Trail of the Spanish Bit by Don Coldsmith

Read by David Palmer

6 hours, 3 minutes

It is 1540 and Juan Garcia has ridden out from Coronado's camp on the Great Plains. His horse is startled by a snake, and a boulder renders Juan unconscious. He is discovered by "the People" (Indians), who admire his "elk-dog" (horse). Juan is nursed back to health and teaches the People horse-breeding, which will change their entire way of life. Prequel to "The Elk-Dog Heritage (RC0 31387).

[Download from BARD: Trail of the Spanish Bit](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB031200

Death Rides a Chestnut Mare by Ralph Compton

Read by Joe Wilson

9 hours, 54 minutes

1870. Missouri gunsmith Daniel Strange is killed on a cattle-buying trip to Texas. His gun-slinging daughter Danielle--disguised as a young man with her father's name--seeks vengeance. Strong language and some violence. 1999.

[Download from BARD: Death Rides a Chestnut Mare](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076917

War Woman a Novel of the Real People By Robert J. Conley

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

13 hours, 1 minute

In 1580 when Whirlwind, a Cherokee maiden, is sixteen, she compels her twin brother and five others to join her on a dangerous trip to Florida to trade with the Spaniards. On this tragic journey she proves her leadership abilities and is renamed War Woman. Violence. 1997.

[Download from BARD: War Woman a Novel of the Real People](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB052728

Junction Flats Drifter by Kent Conwell

Read by Nancy Vanhemert

6 hours, 5 minutes

Drifter Josh Barkley and his aging Kickapoo sidekick, Mike Gray-Eyes, witness a double murder on the trail through Texas. They take the bodies to the nearest town and soon enough find themselves on some mighty slippery ground. A local rancher's daughter sets her demure sights on Josh, who briefly considers fleeing town and the uneasy promise of romantic intrigue but instead agrees to help the sheriff corral the troublesome gang of rustlers. If that weren't headache enough, figure in a Confederate strongbox brimming with \$60,000 in gold, a couple of Union spies deeply ensconced in the town, and a shifty saloon owner looking to score big from the coming railroad. Some violence. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Junction Flats Drifter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC014777

Hell's Riders by Ralph W. Cotton

Read by Ray Childs

10 hours, 46 minutes

Ranger Sam Burrack and prisoner Ted Riley arrive at Clifton Wells, where scalp hunters have just attacked. They find Sheriff Boyd Tackett's betrothed, Greta, dead and her twelve-year-old daughter, Hilda, missing. Tackett, Burrack, and Riley ride out to find the killers and save Hilda. Violence and some strong language. 2004.

[Download from BARD: Hell's Riders](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB061470

Roy & Lillie: a Love Story by Loren D. Estleman

Read by John Polk

8 hours, 11 minutes

Fictionalized account of the nineteenth-century love affair carried on via correspondence between Texas saloon keeper and judge Roy Bean, known as "the law west of the Pecos," and English actress Lillie "Jersey Lily" Langtry. Spur Award Finalist. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Roy & Lillie a Love Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075026

Longarm on the Thunderbird Run by Tabor Evans

Read by Phil Regensdorf

6 hours, 10 minutes

When the only road out of Thunderbird Canyon, a silver-mining town, is blocked, Marshal Long is stranded along with the law-abiding residents, silver miners, and the still unidentified members of the outlaw White Hood Gang.

[Download from BARD: Longarm and the Thunderbird Run](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB028820

Trail of the Tattered Star by Cliff Farrell

Read by Jeremy Gage

6 hours, 45 minutes

During the Civil War a group of Confederate sympathizers plots to seize California for the South. Assigned to thwart the conspiracy, Union agent Mike McLish tracks the rebels through miles of Apache territory. 1961.

[Download from BARD: Trail of the Tattered Star](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063236

Six-Horse Hitch by Janice Holt Giles

Read by Eric Plesner

12 hours, 47 minutes

A young cowboy relates his adventures driving an overland stage west from Missouri and his unhappy love for Bernie, who is abducted by a Ute chieftain. 1969.

[Download from BARD: Six-Horse Hitch](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB017066

The Big Sky by A.B. Guthrie

Read by Jack Fox

13 hours, 42 minutes

1830s. Seventeen-year-old Boone Caudill heads west from Kentucky after trying to kill his strict father. Boone travels the Missouri River to the Rockies, joins other mountain men, takes a native wife, and becomes as harsh as the wilderness. Includes Wallace Stegner's 1965 foreword. Some violence and some strong language. 1947.

[Download from BARD: The Big Sky](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069986

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14920](#)

Also available in braille BR014920

A Rider of the High Mesa by Ernest Haycox

Read by John Polk

4 hours, 15 minutes

When cattle rustlers strike, the residents of Powder suspect Lin Ballou, a loner who left his ranch presumably to seek gold in the high mesa. Lin finds something more valuable, but runs afoul of the true culprits. Lin tries to dodge trouble while helping townsfolk, including the judge's daughter. 1927.

[Download from BARD: Rider of the High Mesa](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068943

Desert Rider A Western Duo by Ray Hogan

Read by Jim Zeiger

8 hours, 52 minutes

Two western novellas. In Desert Rider marshal John Banning of Yucca Flats seeks revenge for the murder of his teenage nephew. In The Outside Gun lawman Little Bill Krask feuds with his rancher father Big Bill, and it is up to Dan Wade to intercede. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Desert Rider a Western Duo](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075172

Sioux Dawn a Novel of the Fetterman Massacre by Terry C. Johnston

Read by John Polk

14 hours, 31 minutes

First of a series of historical novels examining the tragedies that occurred at Fort Phil Kearny. Through the eyes of Sergeant Seamus Donegan, Johnston examines the fate of the eighteenth infantry as they battled the Sioux Indians, led by Red Cloud, during the Fetterman Massacre of 1866. Prequel to Red Cloud's Revenge (RC0 40640). Violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex. 1990.

[Download from BARD: Sioux Dawn a Novel of the Fetterman Massacre](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB040639

The First Mountain Man by William W. Johnstone

Read by John Polk

10 hours, 17 minutes

Oregon Trail, 1837. East of the Absaroka Range, the mountain man called Preacher encounters an unfriendly band of Arapaho and their terrified captives. Preacher frees the missionaries--two men and two women--and promises them safety, although toting four greenhorns through hostile territory won't be easy. Precedes Blood on the Divide (RC0 53030). 1991.

[Download from BARD: The First Mountain Man](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057247

Beggar's Gulch by Cameron Judd

Read by Jim Zeiger

4 hours, 33 minutes

Facing a lynch mob after avenging his father's murder, nineteen-year-old Matt McAllison flees to Montana Territory. He works as a cowpuncher on Ezra Jernigan's ranch and falls in love with Jernigan's daughter Melissa. When thugs kidnap Melissa, Matt tracks them to the notorious outlaw hideout Beggar's Gulch. 1980.

[Download from BARD: Beggar's Gulch](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068009

The Good Old Boys by Elmer Kelton

Read by Don Feldheim

10 hours, 49 minutes

Will easy-riding, old-time cowboy Hewey Calloway finally settle down? He realizes that a new era is coming to Texas in the early 1900s, but at the age of thirty-eight, he doesn't want to change with the times. Prequel to The Smiling Country (RC0 48506). 1985.

[Download from BARD: The Good Old Boys](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048505

The Whip: a Novel by Karen Kondazian

Read by Carol Jacobanis

10 hours, 40 minutes

A fictionalized account of the life of Charlotte "Charley" Parkhurst, who spent most of her life in the nineteenth century living as a man. After the destruction of her family, Charlotte disguises herself in order to track down the killer. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Whip: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087982

Whiskey When We're Dry by John Larison

Read by

15 hours, 27 minutes

1885. Orphaned seventeen-year-old Jessilyn Harney disguises herself as a boy and sets out to track down her outlaw brother and bring him home. Along the way, Jess finds herself employed by the very man seeking to hunt down her brother--dead or alive. Violence. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Whiskey When We're Dry](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB092608

Heresy by Melissa Lenhard

Read by Erin Jones

13 hours, 40 minutes

After being run off their ranch, Margaret and Hattie form an all-female gang and begin committing a series of heists. With detectives and a rival gang on their heels, Margaret and Hattie fight to finish one last job. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Heresy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094783

Hombre by Elmore Leonard

Read by Chuck Benson

4 hours, 17 minutes

A stagecoach robbery in 1884 reveals the true character of the victims-- especially of John Russell, known as Hombre. He was shunned for his Apache ties by his travel companions, until they needed his physical prowess to save them. 1967 movie with same title. 1961.

[Download from BARD: Hombre](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056001

Charley Sunday's Texas Outfit by Stephen Lodge

Read by Tom Stechschulte

9 hours, 54 minutes

Hoping to leave his grandson a legacy of the Old West, Texas rancher Charles Sunday buys three hundred head of longhorn cattle and leads the boy on an old-fashioned cross-country cattle drive. Some violence and some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Charley Sunday's Texas Outfit](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB093867

Comanche Moon by Larry McMurtry

Read by Bob Askey

25 hours, 9 minutes

In this sequel to Dead Man's Walk (RC0 43928) and prequel to Lonesome Dove (RC0 22959), Texas Rangers McCrae and Call face Comanche raids and attacks by bandits, aid white settlers in the region, and try to survive frontier hardships. Some strong language and violence. Bestseller. 1997.

[Download from BARD: Comanche Moon](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB045001

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12758](#)

Also available in braille BR012758

Deadly Pursuit by Theodore V. Olsen

Read by Jack Fox

5 hours, 57 minutes

Wyoming. Aging trapper Silas Pine rides into Grafton in a last attempt to reconcile with his estranged son, Noah, the town marshal. Silas, who arrives in the middle of a bank robbery, finds himself a member of a posse led by Noah--not exactly the reunion he planned. Some violence. 1995.

[Download from BARD: Deadly Pursuit](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070298

Sheriff of Hangtown: a Western Duo by Lauran Paine

Read by Joe Peck

8 hours, 28 minutes

In the title story lawman Wesley Potter of Hangtown, California, vows to find out who killed horse rancher Dick Ruffin and why. In "Outlaw's Hide-Out" fugitive bank robber Hap Thompson risks his freedom to save the life of a young woman thrown from a horse. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Sherif of Hangtown: a Western Duo](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070112

The Ruthless Range; Death Rides a Black Horse by Lewis B. Patten

Read by Ray Childs

10 hours, 24 minutes

Two novels by Spur Award-winning western writer. In The Ruthless Range, reluctant gunfighter Jason Mellor helps defend a lovely widow's ranch. In Death Rides a Black Horse, fifteen-year-old Frank Halliday stands to inherit his late father's spread when he comes of age--if he lives that long. Some violence. 1963.

[Download from BARD: the Ruthless Range; Death Rides a Black Horse](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB059126

The Last Days of Horse-Shy Halloran by Bill Pronzini

Read by Ted Eiland

5 hours, 7 minutes

As he rides out of town, Henry W. Halloran counts the many victories of the most glorious day of his intermittently honest life. Now, he heads for San Francisco, the rich widows, and the soft beds. But Henry finds that his happy ending is just the beginning of trouble.

[Download from BARD: the Last Days of Horse-Shy Halloran](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB028875

Byrnes Family Ranch. Books 1-4 by Dusty Richards

Read by Jack Fox

34 hours, 52 minutes

The first four books in the series, published between 2009 and 2013. In Texas Blood Feud, a feud erupts over hanged horse thieves. In Between Hell and Texas, Chet sets off for new territory with a broken heart. Also includes Blood on the Verde River and Brothers in Blood. Strong language and some violence. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Byrnes Family Ranch. Books 1-4](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083493

The Evil Men Do by David Robbins

Read by Angelo Di Loreto

8 hours, 9 minutes

Fifteen-year-old bounty hunter Tyree Johnson comes to the little town of Sweetwater seeking to apprehend a killer who escaped from Cheyenne. Marshal Fred Hitch teams up with Tyree to transport the killer back, but the journey will be difficult. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

[Download from BARD: The Evil Men Do](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094824k

Honor! Wagon West: The Empire Trilogy, Volume 1 by Dana Fuller Ross

Read by Jim Zeiger

12 hours, 47 minutes

Frontier brothers Clay and Jeff Holt travel to Washington, D.C., to claim a land grant Clay earned on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Former president Jefferson recruits them to investigate a landgrab that may have caused Meriwether Lewis's death. Follows the Frontier Trilogy. Some violence and some strong language. 1998.

[Download from BARD: Honor! Wagon West: The Empire Trilogy, Vol. 1](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062209

Shane by Jack Schaefer

Read by John Polk

4 hours, 52 minutes

Wyoming territory, 1889. A mysterious stranger named Shane rides into the Starretts' ranch and learns of trouble between cattle baron Fletcher and the homesteaders. Shane decides to stay and help the family keep their stake. Some violence. For senior high and older readers. 1949.

[Download from BARD: Shane](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB060163

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13561](#)

Also available in braille BR013561

The Rio Grande by Jory Sherman

Read by Roy Avers

7 hours, 38 minutes

Matthew Caine, an agent of the U.S. government and a friend to the Shoshone and Arapaho Indians, has spent his life along the Rio Grande. This big, powerful man is known as "El Gigante" by the Spanish, who fear he is a spy planning to help take away their land. As war rages between the nations, Caine, who has come to love a Shoshone woman, will find his life endangered along the banks of his beloved river. Strong language and some violence.

[Download from BARD: The Rio Grande](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB043279

Ride the Man Down by Luke Short

Read by Jack Fox

6 hours, 4 minutes

With owner Phil Everts's death, the Hatcher spread is up for grabs. Seventy thousand acres of range is a lot of loot, and Bide Marriner wants it all--the grass, the water, and the power that comes with it. Only one man stands in his way--foreman Will Ballard. 1942.

[Download from BARD: Ride the Man Down](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072236

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19200](#)

Also available in braille BR019200

The Last Cowboys of San Geronimo by Ian Stansel

Read by Jordan Killam

6 hours, 23 minutes

Silas Van Loy flees on horseback to avoid capture for his brother's murder, chased by law enforcement and his brother's widow. As he runs, he reflects on the long-standing sibling rivalry that ultimately led to his brother's death.

Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Last Cowboys of San Geronimo](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB093886

Hell Hath No Fury: John Hawk Book 1 by Charles G. West

Read by Richard Davidson

10 hours, 46 minutes

Jamie Pratt and his young bride are abandoned by their wagon-train leader while traveling westward. They decide to press on, but after they vanish, Jamie's brother, Monroe, enlists John Hawk, a well-known scout, to aid in the search for them. Violence and strong language. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Hell Hath No Fury: John Hawk Book 1](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088995

The Bounty Trail by Richard S. Wheeler

Read by Ted Stoddard

8 hours, 58 minutes

Nevada. Charming down-and-out swindler Claudius Raines wanders into the once-booming but now abandoned mining town of Pearlygates and introduces himself to the owner and sole inhabitant, feisty divorcée MayBelle Haggerty. Together they concoct a scheme to revive the town and restore their fortunes by starting a gold rush. 2004.

[Download from BARD: The Bounty Trail](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB061912

Outcasts of Picture Rocks by Cherry Wilson

Read by Lloyd James

7 hours, 15 minutes

Race Coulter persuades young Ren Rand to help him steal a palomino stallion called Black Wing from a wild herd in the Picture Rocks Basin. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Outcasts of Picture Rocks](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094648