

BOOKS OF WILLIAM A. LUCKEY (in reverse chronological order)

Book 1

2011 – **RIVER WARS** – the final book in the McCraw trilogy. A Philadelphia Main Line medical student, wounded in France before the US entered WWI, is assigned as a medic to the US Cavalry out of Marfa, Texas. Gideon Leander meets an old timer by accident, and as he rebuilds the old man's fence, he listens to James Henry McCraw's stories and falls in love with McCraw's granddaughter. Bandit raids across the Rio Grande dictate life for both soldiers and the townspeople of Marfa, and Gideon finds himself riding into battle even as he attempts to court Josie McCraw.

Book 2

2011 - **INDIVIDUAL, two stories; A DEBT OWED and THE SUM OF MUCH**

A DEBT OWED: His land and inheritance desired by a family member and a government service, his life threatened by a some-time outlaw, alone, isolated by choice, Del Winter turns on his enemies and discovers, in the process of fighting back, that he has earned the loyalty of good friends and the love of a special young woman.

THE SUM OF MUCH: one man, barely holding on to a prejudiced existence, stands up in front of all those who dislike him and his family, and forces a town to see a piece of supposedly-worthless swamp in a unique and special light.

Book 3

2010 – **SWEET GRASS;** Horseman and trouble-maker, Blue Mitchell escorts a race horse to Brighton Beach race track in New York in 1900. He is to deliver the horse to August Belmont, Jr. and insure the horse's safety. Mitchell meets Willie Simms, the first jockey to professionally in the 'crouch' seat, and the two men are determined to keep the horse safe from the unsavory practices of the race course until the colt proves his mettle.

Review – Amazon 2010 'As always, the stories about Blue Mitchell are fascinating....The author knows his Western history, horses and cowboys...it's a must read.'

Book 4

2010 – **ALONG CHICO CREEK/FAST HORSES;** two Blue Mitchell stories in one.

ALONG CHICO CREEK puts Blue in the middle of nowhere, and a murder investigation. The Dorsey Mansion sits in the grasslands of northeast New Mexico with few neighbors. A rancher is murdered and Blue finds the body. For his own survival, he sets out to find the killer.

FAST HORSES; in 1891, Blue Mitchell is accused of stealing a fancy horse from an Army colonel even as he is bringing the stallion and a few wild horses in to Fort Robinson. Wounded by one of the horses, he is cared for by the Colonel's wife and their son. The unthinkable happens; Blue falls in love with the wife and she returns his affection. Barely healed, Blue heads out on his own horse and a two-year-old mustang.

In 1897, Blue returns to the Fort, bringing in a herd of horses for the Army from a Nebraska ranch. At the Fort, Blue is challenged to a race by the Colonel's grown son and a bad-tempered sergeant. The terrible outcome changes Blue's life as he learns of a past he didn't know existed.

Review – Amazon 2010 'The fascinating relationships between the characters, horses, story, and landscape make these books great reading whatever your interests may be.'

Review – Amazon 2010 '**FAST HORSES** is ...the best published work so far by William A. Luckey...I loved the book, so will you!'

Book 5

2009 – **FIVE CENT RETURN** – One man leads a rogue horse from certain death in an auction to the land where the horse was born. The journey is mostly on foot, spending too much time avoiding state and federal bridges, and the law along the way. Survival for Joe Evans and the reluctant and rebellious horse, Ike, is a daily matter of finding enough to eat, shelter from storms and the cold, and ways to cross too many rivers.

Review – Amazon 2010 '**FIVE CENT RETURN** follows the journey of a man and a horse, brought together by their mutual determination to live, or die, by their own principles. Their transformation, both physical and emotional, is beautifully portrayed...'

Book 6

2008 – **BURN ENGLISH** - a man turns his horses loose and rides away from everything he's known. He goes north out of NM into Colorado, and unexpectedly becomes caretaker of a dying man and entangled in a woman's life.

Review – Amazon 2008 'The author again treats us to vivid descriptions of the characters and a simply told...story of a complicated human being.'

Review – Amazon 2008 'I was again...impressed by the writer's insight and deep knowledge of not only horses, but also the historical correctness and great feel for what it must have been like to be 'Burn English' during the transition period...'

Review 2008 'Very well written and an interesting followup on THE ENGLISH HORSES.'

Book 7

2007 – **THE ENGLISH HORSES** – New Mexico in 1889, one of the few territories left where wire fence and managed ranching had yet to take hold. An Englishman, Gordon Meiklejon, arrives to install new ideas into the half-tamed land. Ten years later he writes his memories of that first year; of the two women, Katherine Donald and Victoria Blaisdell, who seek his company, the cowhand Davy Hildahl, the foreman of the ranch, Gayle Souter. And the two outlaws, one an acknowledged thief and cattle rustler, Jack Holden, and the mustanger, Burn English, who takes the best of the wild horses, and uses whatever graze suits him. Civilization has come to the territory and the wild ones, horses and men, have to change.

Review – Publishers Weekly 2007...add in loads of horse sense, and the result, until the abrupt ending, is a bronc-busting oater with colorful characters, vivid scenery and snappy dialogue.

Review – Amazon 2008 ‘I picked up *The ENGLISH HORSES* with enthusiasm and not-too-high expectations. I was glad I did so. Luckey does an admirable job in creating scenes from the time...an enjoyable read and I...will try out the sequel, *BURN ENGLISH*.

Review – Amazon 2007 ...the character depth far surpasses one’s (at least my) expectations from that genre. Not only do the characters stay with you...but the story is fascinating.

Review – Amazon 2007 ...not romanticized but real existence in the American frontier...you will see the (characters) in three dimension...I couldn’t wait to get back every night to be transported to another time.

Review – Amazon 2007 ...on a much deeper level than your average Western, I recommend it to anybody interested in the history of the West.

Review – Amazon 2008 – Luckey writes a quick, terse, familiar text complete with dialectical differences that make this a very entertaining read. (The characters) jump off the pages into our imagination.

Quite a book.

Book 8

2004 – **NOTHIN’ MUCH** – in present day New Mexico a drifter comes through with a trailer-load of steers. He’s offered a job, takes up residence in a line shack, and is used by his employer to do chores owed to an old woman. His well-concealed history is covered by stories of horses and odd people, yet he recognizes the terror of a young girl, and the pain of a recently-divorced woman. Despite great reluctance and fear, these people come together as a family.

Review – Amazon 2004 ‘The story line is as real as it gets, exposing the anguish of man’s inhumanity to man, and the undeniable triumph of compassion and love to overcome the seemingly impossible. The issues are raw, contemporary, and incredibly complex, yet the author weaves us into the lives of these people...’

Book 9

2003 – **UNKNOWN FRIEND** – a woman tells a story of her past, of her cousin that no one knew about, and his friendship with a charming rogue. She is warned, by her cousin, her parents, even the boy himself, not to fall in love but she does. The infatuation gets out of control, and at a family meeting, a secret is revealed that shatters her parents, enrages her cousin, and destroys any possibility of a normal life. The story is rough and sexual, even with a woman as the narrator.

Review – Amazon 2003 - This is one of those rare books that when you have read it and put it down, it will be a while before you can pick up another book to read.

Review – Amazon 2003 ‘From the beginning of the book, I was drawn into the lives of the main characters.’

Review – Amazon 2003 ‘...it has all the aspects of a good western...then suddenly the characters take over and you find yourself on a journey that you really didn’t expect.’

Review – Amazon 2003 ‘From the beginning to the end...I found myself totally immersed in the lives of these very real and sometimes raw characters.’

Review – Amazon 2003 ‘...I kept rooting for a happily ever after finish. Fortunately the author stayed truthful and the characters were allowed to live out their destinies.’

Book 10

1993 - **TEXAS SPRINGS** - by Belinda Perry, Published by Ballantine – The second in a trilogy about James Henry McCraw. The railroad comes to the new town of Marfa and in the 1880s, James McCraw learns he must file on land he's claimed and worked since just after the Civil War. Tangled in the new laws, Jim Henry hires a new hand to work the horse, and discovers a confirmed bachelor can fall in love, with an eastern woman claimed by another man. The new hire, Matt Iberra, is killed, shot by the law; only then Jim Henry learns the boy was his son, born from that long trip out of Santa Fe to southern New Mexico, and then home to Texas.

Review: personal letter: 'I am writing this letter as an apology. Texas Springs' cover looked, well, mushy. Reading the first page changed my...view and I became a fan. Your description of the environment in which your characters lived...added so much to your story. My apologies for cut'n you short...and thanks.'

Book 11

1992 – **CIMMARON BLOOD** – Blue Mitchell, a skilled horseman, is blinded by a thoroughbred stallion. He fights for his life and to regain his sight, in the St. James hotel. A madman commits murder, and terrorizes the community, the rancher who hired Blue Mitchell, and his daughter. It comes down to a blinded cowboy fighting a maniac to protect a panicked once-brave girl.

Book 12

1991 – **FLAGS OVER TEXAS** – just after the Mexican War, near Presidio, Texas, a boy loses his family to an Indian raid. He grows up as a casual ward of the local rancher, and when the Civil War intrudes on the life he's created, he marches north with Sibley's Brigade. Their mission is to take Santa Fe and then march into Colorado, to secure the overland routes for the Confederacy. At the Battle of Glorieta Pass, the Texas soldiers win the fight and lose the battle, as their commander retreats south after his supplies are destroyed.

James McCraw stays behind with a wounded friend, finds himself thrown in the Santa Fe jail, and is faced with all the prejudices of his past years as the jail population feeds and cares for him. His journey back to Texas turns him from a callow, angry youth to a thoughtful and hard-edged man.

Review ...'I was struck with the richness and strength of the vocabulary...and the manner in which the action was presented so strongly, but yet with restraint.

Book 13

1991 – **BAD COMPANY** – Blue Mitchell wagers a bet to ride a wild horse, and is drawn in to a land scheme on a dry mesa.

Book 14

1987 – **THE DEATH OF JOE GILEAD** – Joe Gilead returns home to find his aging parents have given over their ranch to an outsider. Local ranchers are losing cattle to

elusive rustlers, and have no way to stop them. Joe offers himself as bait, relying on his past reputation to join up with the rustlers.

Review... WWW Roundup, August 1987... Latest in a line of Luckey characters who encourage us not to take people at face value. It is enough to say that the characters are strongly drawn, the conflicts sharp, the detail of horsemanship and ranch life authentic.

Book 15

1987 – **LONG RIDE TO NOWHERE** – Blue Mitchell grows up quickly while trying to deliver a valuable mare and foal to their rightful owner, a Spanish rancher outside of Tucson. He encounters thieves, rustlers, Apaches and most dangerous of all, a young girl and her mother who depend on Blue for their safety.

Review... WWW Roundup... Author Luckey has a continuing gift for... inducing us to understand and like people in print whom we'd probably misjudge & loathe in real life.

Book 16

1986 – **FIRE BASIN** – A burned-out rancher learns that his grandfather is dying and wants to will his ranch to family. A rancher new to the area wants all the land surrounding his property, including the valuable springs. He plans to take advantage of two sisters in an attempt to own their land. Ben Raynor wants nothing to do with his grandfather's legacy yet he will fight for the two women as penance. Accepting responsibility for others opens him to the possibility of his own renewed life.

Book 17

1985 – **HIGH LINE RIDER** – Holly Bishop steals a warm loaf of bread, and escapes into a trail through the mountains that leads him to the town of Guffey Creek. He becomes brutally acquainted with a local family and their opposition to a horse breeder who wants their stallion and intends to bankrupt them. Despite Bishop's remote manner, he cannot distance himself from these people who need his skills.

Review... WWW Roundup 1986 – High Line Rider... is a remarkable first novel. I hope we see more from the same pen.