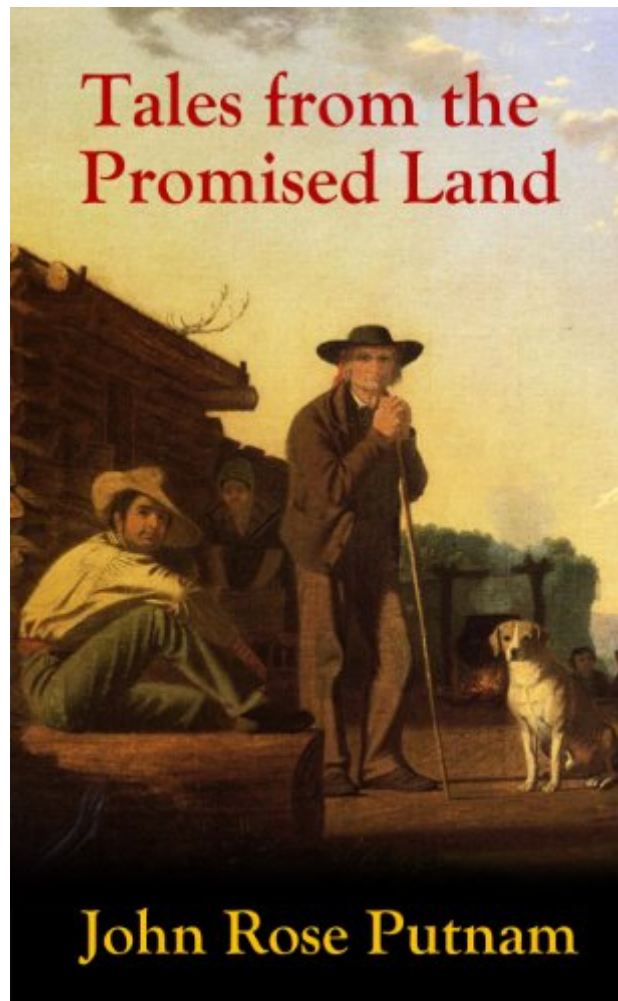


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Tales From The Promised Land: Western Short Stories From The California Gold Rush



Synopsis

Tales from the Promised Land is a collection of five of John's most compelling stories of life in early California. From the tongue in cheek Bottomless Bartlett's Beautiful Bride, in which a man offers \$200 for a suitable wife, to Uncle Charley, where the rapidly changing times may surprise even a modern reader, each tale will leave your heart richer. A falling out between brothers is the focus of the powerful Payback at Murderer's Bar, and in Firebaugh's Ferry a reporter meets a woman at a lonely stage stop where the most wanted man in California will soon be executed. And with the adventurous Stoddard's Gold comes a brand new twist to the famous yarn about a lost lake of gold high in the Sierra that will bring a smile to every face.

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Customer Reviews

I read this collection after reading John Putnam's full-length novel, Into The Face of the Devil, which is a rich coming-of-age story that vividly describes the historical Californian Gold Rush in an exciting and moving context. As much as I enjoyed the novel, I did not expect to enjoy a short story format as much, given that the short story is an art in its own right and I love novels. But each of these stories

shows a difference strength in Putnam's imagination: from the hilarious and satirical to the moving and profound. Each story establishes its characters and plot quickly and offers a strong ending. If I was to criticize this book, it is that any of these short stories could be the foundation for another rich Putnam Gold Rush novel. Fans of historical fiction, and the Gold Rush age in particular, will love both of John Putnam's works.

I embarked on a reading tour last year, with the purpose of sampling different genres, so admit to not having read many works in the Western genre for comparison. That being said, I have always been a fan of western movies and study the history of the Old West, so settled down with *Tales from the Promised Land* by John Rose Putnam. I was not disappointed. This is a collection of five short stories, which makes it easier to read a complete story in one sitting, as opposed to a full length novel. A feature that I like. The stories are based in the California Gold Rush days of the Old West, and the author is clearly familiar with the history and areas he writes about, providing just enough colorful descriptions and depictions to set the scene and leaving the rest to the reader's imagination without slowing down the story. The characters are well drawn, with creative names perfectly suited to the period. Any of them could be featured at greater length in a novel format. I would like to know more about how it all worked out over time for Bottomless Bartlett. The action proceeds at good pace, held my interest and I never left a story without finishing it. The stories are well prepared, cleanly and carefully presented to make for a smooth and enjoyable reading experience. This collection was very enjoyable and highly recommended. I look forward to reading more of Mr. Putnam's stories, and hope that he is working on more.

These five tales of simple entertainment from the California gold rush are filled with wonderful setting and atmospheric details which firmly place the reader into place and era. "Bottomless Bartlett's Beautiful Bride" plunges right in with immediate, pure western flavor and wry humor. Quite different to follow, "Uncle Charley" was a more refined and quaint mystery. A quick, enjoyable read in the "old western TV" style of good clean plots and wholesome characters.

Having been extremely impressed with John Putnam's book "Into the Face of the Devil" and ever an avid fan of short stories, I nabbed this book, too, and am so glad I did. These short stories were so well written and what a great writing voice! They made me laugh and one made me want to cry... As far as a favorite goes, I can't say ~ although ugly bottomless Bart and his story will forever be in my heart as well as Uncle Charley's sacrificial secret. Another great book I can highly recommend!! I

plan to read these rich short stories again.

This is a great collection of five stories. "Bottomless Bartlett's Beautiful Bride" begins when a man who loves to eat offers \$200--in gold--to anyone who can fix him up with a bride. The story provides a great glimpse of old time San Francisco and ends with a surprise twist, especially for the prospective groom. "Uncle Charley" tells the tale of a stagecoach driver "Six Gun Charley" who is dying. Again a twist at the end, worthy of Hitchcock, delights the reader. "Payback at Murderer's Bar" shows how a mining tragedy teaches two divisive brothers to finally work together. "Finebaugh's Ferry" melds a tale of frontier justice and burgeoning love into a revealing and satisfying story. By far the longest story in the quintet "Stoddard's Gold" is a tale of mining, adventure, betrayal, love, and revenge that is also a coming of age experience for the main character, Micah Poole. Delightful historical nuggets (the invention of the cash register, baseball's reserve clause, 19th century troubles in Afghanistan) and a glimpse into the people of the gold rush make "Tales From the Promised Land" a delightful and insightful read. Highly recommended. Beautiful Lies (The Wrath of Grapes Murder Mysteries) (Volume 1)

The first story here, about Bottomless Bartlett, might have been written by Bret Harte or an early Mark Twain. Putnam's tales range in tone from humorous to compassionate to adventurous. His work is well crafted, entertaining and insightful. All that's missing are some more full length novels from this author.

This is a well written collection of short stories about the gold rush by a gifted writer. Each story is complete, rich in historical detail, and features well developed characters. I highly recommend this collection to anyone who likes action and adventure, and tales of the wilderness and survival. I found the details about the horses and tack to be accurate and well written, and give this book a high 5 stars.

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