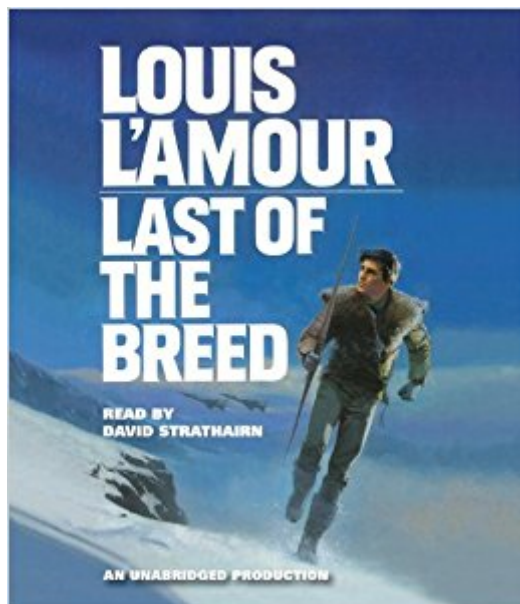


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# Last Of The Breed



## Synopsis

“For sheer adventure L’Amour is in top form.” —Kirkus Reviews “Here is the kind of authentically detailed epic novel that has become Louis L’Amour’s hallmark. It is the compelling story of U.S. Air Force Major Joe Mack, a man born out of time. When his experimental aircraft is forced down in Russia and he escapes a Soviet prison camp, he must call upon the ancient skills of his Indian forebears to survive the vast Siberian wilderness. Only one route lies open to Mack: the path of his ancestors, overland to the Bering Strait and across the sea to America. But in pursuit is a legendary tracker, the Yakut native Alekhin, who knows every square foot of the icy frontier” and who knows that to trap his quarry he must think like a Sioux. From the Paperback edition.

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## Customer Reviews

Readers of L’Amour’s Westerns and his recent medieval saga *The Walking Drum* will not be disappointed by this contemporary epic. Proving that he is above all a great raconteur, the prolific L’Amour sets his latest in Siberia where a downed American test pilot, Joseph "Joe Mack" Makatozi, has been taken after his capture by the Russians. Part Sioux, Joe Mack escapes prison only to face the seemingly impossible odds of getting across Siberia to the Bering Strait, where like his ancestors, he can cross into North America. Joe Mack is a classic American hero, thrown back into the wilderness and forced to rely on his wits and his ancestral skills to survive the deadly cold and elude his Soviet pursuers, including his nemesis, a Siberian tracker. L’Amour brings the same colorful realism to this sweeping adventure that has made his Westerns so beloved. 350,000 copy

first printing; Literary Guild main selection. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

Once again demonstrating his versatility, the prolific L'Amour has written a contemporary adventure novel set in the "Wild East" of Siberia. U.S. Air Force Major Joseph Makatozi "Joe Mack" is shot down by the Russians, who intend to wring secret information from him before executing him. The catch in their plans is that Rambo-like Joe Mack is part Sioux, part Cheyenne, and a nearly Olympic-caliber athlete. Still, it takes all his native skills and endurance to survive and overcome Soviet Colonel Arkady Zamatev and his Yakut henchman Alekhin as they track the American across the Siberian wilderness. L'Amour's latest novel will be requested in most public libraries. Literary Guild main selection. William C. McCully, Park Ridge P.L., Ill. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

This is only the second book I have ever read by Louis L'Amour, and now I wonder why. He is really a very enjoyable author to read. I enjoyed this book from beginning to end. I only have two criticisms. First, there were a lot of characters with Russian names that I had a hard time keeping up with. I had to frequently go back in the book to remember exactly who they were. This was probably just my lack of concentration. Second, I was not satisfied with the ending. It is what it is, but I wish that L'Amour had spent just a little more time and developed the ending a little. All in all, however, I definitely recommend this book.

Plot: An American test pilot, Major Joe Mack, a half Sioux half Scottish man is shot down by Russians and taken prisoner to a camp in Siberia. There the ambitious Colonel Zamatev plans to break and interrogate the Major in order to further his experimental espionage operation. Mack's only option? To execute a daring escape in the dead of winter with only the clothes on his back. But where will he go? Stuck in the middle of Siberia during the Cold War, with no one from the Air Force aware of his being alive or a prisoner his only option will be to retrace the trek of his ancestors and cross the Bering Straight in order to get home to America. My thoughts: This is a fantastical tall tale, it's hard to believe how much it engrossed me. Was it because it was my first taste of survival fiction? Maybe it was just a good story. I was reading it not for entertainment value but not specifically to learn from it and yet I was entertained and picked up a couple of things (to be verified). Here are some things that rocked my boat: Every character, even Joe, had great love for the land but little regard for governments. There is great contempt for the bureaucracy. It's

incompetence and apathy is reflected when Alekhin, the Yakut hunting the American, is hampered over and over by the governmental machine, "everything comes second to paperwork these days" he meditates. Alekhin's character can be summed with this quote "He liked none of them, but he preferred to work with Zamatev. The man was cruel, ice hard, and ruthless. Alekhin did not like him, either, and it would be only what he deserved if the American turned around and went back to find and kill him." Of the four qualities a Sioux warrior must possess Mack knows himself brave and with fortitude but what about generosity and wisdom? Does he possess these? Can he survive without them? I like introspection, I think it's a powerful thing to know one's own strengths and weaknesses. And having a clear outlook of the challenges we may face is intrinsically tied to our ability to survive and prepare to face them. The knowledge and skills Mack honed as a half Sioux in the Idaho wilderness and the training he received as an Air Force officer greatly aided him and somewhat prepared him for what he had to face in Siberia. I think having a strong mind and heart guided by a well trained moral compass can make an ordinary person into an extraordinary survivor. I enjoyed Major Mack's indomitable wild spirit. His determination to live or die free, his mental readiness to evaluate and adapt to his circumstances, and his well founded faith on his chosen course are uplifting. In closing survival and preparedness are not about any one thing but a combination and balance of many things. I think knowing who we are, what we're rooted in and what we can do are thoughts worth exploring on this quest we're on. I find that prepping and acquiring survival skills help cultivate many fine qualities and there's a lot more good lessons that can be taken from Mack's story. Last Of The Breed was an enjoyable read though there was a degree of repetitiveness, triteness and stereotypes I'm not fond of. All in all, I think this is a good read.

On Prepping and Surviving: Staring into a fire messes up your night vision. Learn to make a bow and arrows, also a sling. There is no replacement for a good knife. Always scout an alternate way out. Game trails and wildlife can sometimes show you the way out of a tough spot. Words of Wisdom: "There are good men everywhere." "Trust is often based on very little more than one's measure of a man." "When I die, remember that what you knew of me is with you always." "Possessions can rob one of freedom just as much as the bars of a cage."

Major Joseph Makatozi "Joe Mack" is a U.S. Air Force flier shot down and captured by the Russians, who want aircraft information from him. But the Russians don't realize that Joe Mack is one tough hombre. He is a decathlon star, skilled in martial arts, an expert marksman - and he is a man who grew up in wild country in the U.S. and is used to living with and off the land. Joe Mack escapes from a Siberian prison and the rest of the story is about his escape cross country through

the hardest of weather conditions, trying to get to the Bering Strait and from there to Alaska. There is some repetition in this book and it drags in some areas but it doesn't matter. This is a Louis L'Amour masterpiece and Joe Mack is one awesome hero. Thrills, chills (of more than one kind), romance - all without foul language, sex scenes, and over-the-top violence. There is SOME violence in the story but it is necessary to the story and not gratuitous. This is the second time I've read "Last of the Breed" and I rarely reread books. But this book is part of my permanent library and I will probably read it again one of these days.

The hero is an American Indian...we are reminded of this on almost every page...tiresome. The hero overcomes incredible hardships, every time...strains credibility beyond the breaking point, also tiresome. Events are described in great detail, yet the ending is full of open holes without enough detail to make it believable. The ending is one short paragraph. But the story is unique and that makes this book interesting and a good read if you have nothing else to do.

A friend recommended this book, and I said that I don't read cowboy books. He said that this is a completely different genre, and that I would love it. I loved the character development, the plot, the clear description of the surroundings, everything. It is gripping, I didn't want to put it down, and I enjoyed every minute. My only complaint: No Sequel!! I wanted to read more.

Thrilling to the end. This was another one of Louis L'Amour's all engrossing stories. His descriptions of the environment made me feel as though I was there, yes I was even freezing with Joe as he trucked through Siberia. This book stayed with me for a long time. I am blessed to have this gift given to me by a friend. I'll be reading it again sometime.

I love Louis LaMour. He is my favorite western writer. Others such as General/President Eisenhower thought so too. However, this novel has no conclusion. It leaves you hanging. Did he make it home? Did he meet the girl again? The story went on too long and became repetitive. Some plots were just too impossible to be believed. Just like "Walking Drum" this Louis Lamour story is a disaster.

A forgettable, predictable and repetitive book. The author repeats himself so many times, while describing the lead character, I would find myself screaming in my head "You already said that 12 times!"

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