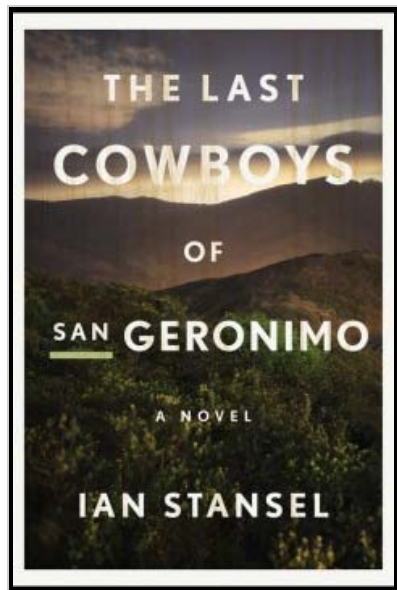




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# The Last Cowboys of San Geronimo: A Novel

by Ian Stansel

**Price: \$23.00**(Hardcover)

Published: July 04, 2017



Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

**From the Publisher:**

A contemporary Western debut about two brothers locked in a deadly feud, a woman on horseback trailing her husband's killer, and the inescapable ties of home and family When Silas Van Loy flees home on horseback to avoid capture for his brother's murder, he is soon followed by both the police and his brother's wife, Lena, who is intent on exacting revenge. She reluctantly lets her trusted stable assistant join her in a journey across the wilds of Northern California in the hopes of catching Silas for one final showdown. Stansel follows the chase and shares the story of the brothers' rise from hardscrabble childhood to their reign as the region's preeminent horse trainers, tracking the tense sibling rivalry that ultimately leads to the elder's death. A fully realized tale that challenges notions of the modern West, The Last...

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## About The Author

Ian Stansel

IAN STANSEL is the author of the collection of stories *Everybody's Irish*, a finalist for the PEN/Bingham prize for debut fiction. His fiction has appeared in numerous literary journals, including *Ploughshares*, *Joyland*, *Ecotone*, and *Cincinnati Review*. His nonfiction has...

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## What We Say

In this solid debut, author Ian Stansel crosses the Biblical tale of Cain vs Abel with the classic Western. But it's set in modern times and involves two brothers who become self-made successes in the competitive world of trainers -- the men and women who battle each other for students they can coach to blue ribbons and even on to Olympic gold. Frank and Silas have always fought and feuded...but they've also worked well together, building on their dad's stables and becoming big players in the world of horsemanship. In many ways, they feel like the last cowboys. But when this trim novel begins, Frank is dead, Silas is on the run cross country on his beloved horse Disco and Frank's wife Lena is in hot pursuit for some old time

justice. We flash back and forth from the present (where Silas feels his oats as an "outlaw" that can scare anyone who has seen the local headlines) to the past, where the two brothers grow up and grow apart. This is a clean, clear, purposeful book that satisfies on multiple levels, especially in showing how the battle between siblings ultimately isn't about anything more than the accident of birth. Like an Anthony Mann film, it's no-nonsense, to the point and better for it. -- Michael Giltz

## What Others Say

"Written with the headlong pace of the cross-country manhunt it describes, *The Last Cowboys of San Geronimo* fuses the classic Cain-and-Abel tale with the gripping tension of a modern revenge thriller. From the groomed world of equestrian eventing to the tough mountain trails of Northern California, Ian Stansel sends a resilient horsewoman in blood-hot pursuit of personal justice, and at the same time shows us that the redemptive partnership of horse and rider can transcend even the most bitter of animosities."

—Malcolm Brooks, author of *Painted Horses*

"With his debut novel, *The Last Cowboys of San Geronimo*, Ian Stansel confidently updates the American Western while honoring its most daring storytellers: Charles Portis and Larry McMurtry. In taut, cinematic prose, Stansel considers the romance of frontier justice, the seductive power of a good old-fashioned horse chase/manhunt and the heartbreaking costs of fraternal rivalry. For me, the true star of *The Last Cowboys of San Geronimo* is Lena Van Loy, a stoic horsewoman who emerges as a fearless rider, a clear-headed tracker and a compassionate but avenging wife. With plenty of true grit,...

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