About the Author: L. Ron Hubbard



With 19 *New York Times* bestsellers and more than 325 million copies of his works in circulation, L. Ron Hubbard is among the most acclaimed and widely read authors of our time. As a leading light of American Pulp Fiction through the 1930s and '40s, he is further among the most influential authors of the modern age. Indeed, from Ray Bradbury to Stephen King, there is scarcely a master of imaginative tales who has not paid tribute to L. Ron Hubbard.

About the Story



In the Big Sky country of Montana, before the railroad brought a glimmer of civilization to the state, Samuel Colt's "Peacemaker" often settled disputes in a less than a peaceful way—enter Sunset Maloney, faster than lighting with a six-shooter.

Sunset, the only man willing and able to take on "Tinhorn" Slim Trotwood, a cruel, land grabber who by fraud or by force has accumulated vast

areas of valuable land at the expanse of others, is about to be hampered in his quest by an unlikely obstacle: a beautiful, naïve, young woman from Boston—Slim Trotwood's daughter, Betsy.

Will Sunset Maloney, who has fallen in love with Betsy, be able to get her to see what an evil man her father is or will he be faced with the choice of losing the fight against Slim Trotwood and losing Betsy?



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Reading Discussion Guide

Tinhorn's Daughter by L. Ron HUBBARD



Questions for Discussion

Tinhorn's Daughter

- **1.** The person in charge has the group read the glossary, a word at a time, encouraging anyone who wished to discuss any of the words to raise their hand. Once the glossary has been completed and all have been given the opportunity to discuss any definition they wish, the group is advised to note down any word he or she does not understand so they can be looked up in a dictionary at the end of the reading.
- **2.** Did you make sure you understood what the word *tinhorn* meant before reading the book and, if so, did the story unfold as you expected?
- **3.** After reading the story, what was your impression of Montana in that time period, before the railway was built? Give some specific images that you were left with.
- **4.** At what point during the story were you able to decide who were the "good guys" and who were the "bad guys," and what led you to this conclusion?
- **5.** After Betsy Trotwood regained consciousness in the cabin, what did her reaction to her encounter with Sunset Maloney tell you about "Bostonians" at that point in history?
- 6. After being told by Sunset Maloney that he had just shot and hung up a deer, there is the line: "For the first time in her life it occurred to her that the meat she ate had once been alive." Have you ever had this realization and do you think there are people who eat meat without giving it a thought?
- **7.** The three boxes were said to contain about seventy-five thousand dollars. How much do you think that would be equivalent to in today's dollars?
- 8. How did you react when, despite his desire to put a slug in Double-Deck Trotwood's heart, Sunset Maloney decided

he could not kill Betsy's father "as long as she thought him worthy"? What message did you get from this?

- **9.** Did Bat Connor coming to Sunset's aid (when Sunset was about to be killed by Trotwood's men) come as a shock to you and if not, why not?
- **10.** What does "unreasoning love" mean to you and do you feel in this story Betsy would have handled things differently had Sunset turned out to really be a bandit and killer?
- **11.** What do you feel was meant by "She was a 'good woman,' the first to come to Puma Pass..." and did the reaction of the men of the town toward her surprise you? If so, why?
- 12. Toward the end of the story it became clear that father and daughter had totally different morals, as he clearly meant to steal her money and abandon her. Do you feel this is unrealistic when compared to real life situations? Explain your answer.
- **13.** Would you have liked to live in Montana during this period of history and, if so, which of the characters in this story do you most identify yourself with?
- **14.** Were you happy with the way the story ended and if not how would you have changed it and why?
- **15.** What part of *Tinhorn's Daughter* left the biggest impression with you?

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