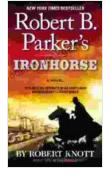
# The Enigmatic Trio: Robert Parker, Ironhorse Virgil Cole, and Everett Hitch

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of three legendary characters who have left an enduring mark on the intricate tapestry of Western literature and cinema: Robert Parker, Ironhorse Virgil Cole, and Everett Hitch.

#### **Robert Parker: The Literary Mastermind**



#### Robert B. Parker's Ironhorse (Virgil Cole & Everett Hitch



Book 5) by Robert Knott

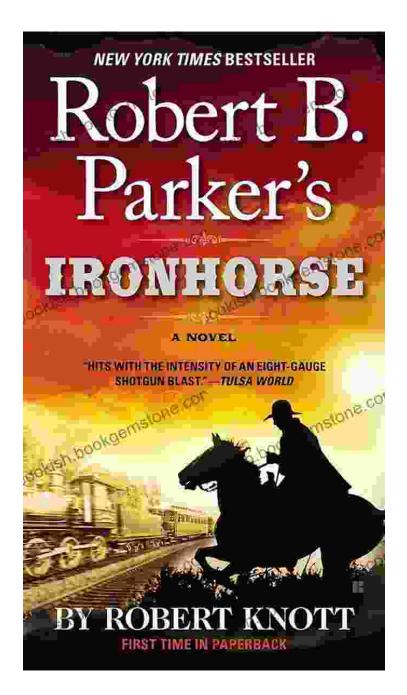
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Robert Parker (1932-2010) was a prolific and highly acclaimed American novelist known for his gripping crime and Western fiction. Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, Parker's love for writing blossomed at an early age. After graduating from Boston University, he embarked on a successful career as an advertising executive before transitioning to full-time writing in the 1970s.

Parker's breakout novel, "God Save the Child," introduced Lieutenant Spenser, a sardonic and quick-witted Boston private investigator who became a beloved character in a series of 40 novels. However, it was his Western series featuring Ironhorse Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch that catapulted Parker to the forefront of Western literature.

#### Ironhorse Virgil Cole: A Towering Figure of the Old West



Ironhorse Virgil Cole is a larger-than-life character who embodies the rugged individualism and indomitable spirit of the Old West. Standing an impressive six feet four inches tall and weighing close to 300 pounds, Cole is a formidable lawman known for his immense strength, unwavering determination, and unwavering loyalty to his friends.

Born in Missouri in 1840, Cole witnessed the horrors of the Civil War firsthand. After the war, he became a U.S. Marshal and embarked on a legendary career that spanned decades. Cole's adventures took him across the untamed territories of the West, where he faced countless perils and dispensed justice with an iron fist.

#### **Everett Hitch: The Reluctant Sidekick with a Sharp Mind**



Everett Hitch is the enigmatic and often reluctantly involved sidekick of Virgil Cole. A former schoolteacher from Maine, Hitch is a man of intelligence and quick wit, but he lacks the physical prowess of his larger companion. Despite his initial reluctance to join Cole on his adventures, Hitch gradually embraces the dangerous life of the Old West. Hitch's keen intellect and ability to think strategically prove invaluable to Cole. Together, they form an unlikely but formidable partnership that overcomes countless obstacles and brings justice to the lawless frontiers.

#### The Cole and Hitch Series: A Literary Masterpiece

Robert Parker's Cole and Hitch series captivated readers and critics alike with its gripping plot, authentic characters, and evocative portrayal of the Old West. The first novel, "Appaloosa," introduced the iconic duo and set the stage for a series that would span 17 books.

Parker's novels are renowned for their unflinching depiction of violence and the harsh realities of frontier life. However, amidst the violence and bloodshed, there is also a profound exploration of human nature, friendship, and the search for justice in a lawless land.

### Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The Cole and Hitch series has been the inspiration for several successful adaptations, including a 2008 film adaptation starring Ed Harris as Cole and Viggo Mortensen as Hitch. The film garnered critical acclaim and box office success, further solidifying the legacy of these iconic characters.

The enduring popularity of Robert Parker's characters and the Cole and Hitch series is a testament to their enduring appeal and the timeless themes they explore. They have become symbols of the American West, embodying the rugged individualism, camaraderie, and relentless pursuit of justice that defined that era.

Robert Parker, Ironhorse Virgil Cole, and Everett Hitch are not just fictional characters; they are enduring symbols of the Old West and the human

spirit. Their stories have captivated generations of readers and viewers, offering a glimpse into a time of both violence and heroism.

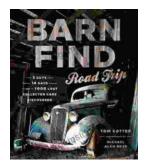
As we delve into their adventures and witness their unbreakable bond, we are reminded of the power of friendship, the pursuit of justice, and the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. The legacy of Robert Parker and his iconic characters will continue to inspire and captivate audiences for years to come.

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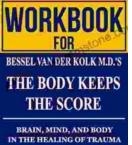
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