



The Hour of Lead: A Novel

Bruce Holbert

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Lonesome Animals was named as a Best Book of 2012 by both *The Seattle Times* and *Slate*, a literary debut sparking with beautiful language set against the rugged landscape of 1920s Washington state. Holbert returns with *The Hour of Lead*, an epic family novel and coming of age story that is once again imbued with the mythology of the west.

After losing both his twin and his father in a brutal, unexpected snowstorm, Matt Lawson must take over the family ranch. As his mother disappears into grief, Matt learns the hardest lesson the west has to teach: he is on his own. The necessity of work stabilizes young Matt against the pitfalls of first love with Wendy, the daughter of a local grocer, and their ragged end will send Matt on a journey across the county, leaving Wendy to tend the ranch with local schoolteacher Linda Jefferson and her unwieldy son Lucky. It will take decades for Matt to learn his way back home, and that long journey will have great impact on all of those around him.

Invoking the same beautiful landscape and language of his critically-acclaimed debut, *The Hour of Lead* is a wider, more expansive novel, less violent but just as affecting, another important contribution to the literature of the west.

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