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The Max Brand Megapack





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Customer Reviews

This is a particularly large collection of Max Brand stories (most of them novels) at a remarkably low price. It is particularly well-formatted, has an active TOC, and altogether, is a tremendous set.

Admittedly, a great many of these titles may be obtained for free at Gutenberg.org or from the Kindle Store (though not all of them will be found in the latter), but I like the convenience of getting a bundle of 20 titles instantly in a single download, and thereafter having them all in one place on my Kindle for easy access. Max Brand (in reality Frederick Faust) was a prolific pulp writer who wrote, among other things, the very popular "Dr. Kildare" series. But he is probably most famous for his hundreds of Westerns, and he is often (rightly) mentioned with, and compared to, Zane Grey and Louis L'Amour. Brand's stories, however, tend to have a slightly different, hard-to-define "feel" to them. Perhaps this is because Brand's heroes are frequently loners either in pursuit of someone who has wronged them or on the run from themselves (that is to say, from their consciences due to some past indiscretion, real or perceived); as such they often tend to be very introspective. Some heavy doses of personal-reflection and self-examination together with equally generous amounts of description (providing local color and a generic sense of the West) contribute to a disproportionate ratio of verbiage to action in many of his novels. Therefore, what some readers may consider stylistic detail for the sake of creating proper motivation leading to dramatic conflict, others (especially those readers used to more action-packed, contemporary shoot-em-ups) may fault as unnecessary padding which serves to slow down and prolong the story.

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