

Hell in a Handbasket Charts Billy White's Defiant Pursuit of Freedom Across the American Frontier

The US Review of Books highlights the novel's irreverent hero, relentless action, mature romance, evolving compassion, and vivid portrait of a self-made pioneer refusing to live by inherited expectations.



Los Angeles, California Oct 7, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - Timothy J Amerine's [Hell in a Handbasket](#) follows Billy White, a restless Illinois farmhand whose dream of becoming a mountain man leads him away from convention and toward the untamed American West.

After being disowned by his family, Billy leaves the farm and explores town life, river travel, Native American communities, and the demanding world of free trappers. His journey unfolds aboard a flatboat, paddle-wheel steamship, and horseback, bringing dangerous confrontations, unlikely friendships, sexual encounters, and a lasting romance with redheaded Rebecca. Together, Billy and Rebecca eventually venture toward Yellowstone while developing the skills required to survive the wilderness.

In a review for The US Review of Books, Mari Carlson describes the novel as unconventional, irreverent, and propelled by a tireless appetite for discovery. Carlson highlights its action-oriented storytelling, accent-rich dialogue, hunting expeditions, graphic adult content, and constant threats involving animals, criminals, hostile authority figures, and warring tribes. The review also emphasizes that Billy's growing competence is matched by an expanding capacity for compassion.

Rebecca emerges as more than a romantic companion. She becomes a respected trapper whose strength, independence, and feminist convictions establish her as a heroine alongside Billy. Their partnership supports the novel's broader examination of heritage, personal freedom, diverse communities, and lives shaped beyond inherited expectations.

[Timothy J Amerine](#) draws upon firsthand outdoor experience to create the book's rugged atmosphere. He has competed with tomahawks, knives, and period-correct muzzleloaders, hunted in subfreezing conditions while wearing buckskin regalia, raced mountain bikes, explored wrecks, skydived, and worked with a desert-racing pit crew.

Blending historical fiction, action, adventure, and explicit romance, *Hell in a Handbasket* presents a self-made pioneer learning to follow his own path while living closer to the earth, with a sequel positioned to continue his expansive frontier saga. The novel is available through Amazon and other leading online booksellers.

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