

**Guy Bass**

**LAURA  
NORDER**  
**SHERIFF OF BUTTS CANYON**

With illustrations by  
**Steve May**

*To Denise  
Who gave Laura her name!*

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# WHO'S WHO IN

**LAURA NORDER**  
*the sheriff's daughter*



**LAURA'S DAD**  
*the sheriff  
of Butts Canyon*



**TEN GUN BEN**  
*the outlaw*



**JEN ERROL**  
*the General Store owner*



**PORTLY POUNDCAKE**  
*the mayor*



**MORT L. COIL**  
*the undertaker*

# BUTTS CANYON



**SNIPPY CLIPPER**

*the barber*



**TAD TIPSY**

*the barman*

**PRECIOUS LITTLE**  
*the gold prospector*

**HARMONY PLAINSONG**  
*the music teacher*



**WALTER SPITTY**  
*the bad-mannered man*

**DOC KNITWELL**  
*the doctor*



**DUNCAN DISORDERLY**  
*the masked menace*



# Chapter 1

## Welcome to Butts Canyon

A long time ago, before motor cars and microwaves and mobile phones, there was the Wild West! It was an unruly land full of cowboys, cowherds and cowpats. It was a time when men were men, horses were horses and everything else was everything else.

And it was a time of lawless bandits, where the only rule was THERE ARE NO RULES.

Except, that is, in Butts Canyon.

In this small, dusty town, rule-breaking, wrong-doing and bad behaviour were things

of the past. In Butts Canyon, there was one lawmaker that no one dared cross.

No, not Portly Poundcake, the town mayor.

No, not even the town's sheriff, who had a badge and an office with a fancy SHERIFF sign hanging above the door.

No, Butts Canyon was run by a ten-year-old girl by the name of Laura Norder.

Laura's only rule was that everyone followed the Golden Rules, a list of dos and don'ts as long as a winding river. And that is exactly what the townsfolk did. But why? Why would anyone do what a ten year old told them to do?

You wouldn't ask that question if you had met Laura Norder.