



Hang Your Heart on Christmas

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U.S. Marshal Robert “Dent” Hernandez has a gift, if you call specializing in death a gift. Under the auspices of his badge, he tracks and arrests some of the worst criminals Wyoming Territory can spit out. For Dent, the line between vengeance and justice has never been clear. Out there somewhere is the man who killed his father. Dent will find him.

When a prisoner transfer goes awry in his hometown of Evergreen, Wyoming, and Dent’s good friend, Sheriff Ben Hayes, is killed in the crossfire, Dent is forced to serve as interim sheriff. Evergreen is the last place he wants to be. Not only does the town hold some bad memories, but Dent should be out on the trail running down vicious killers, not scolding candy thieves. And he most certainly should not be escorting the very pretty, but jittery, schoolteacher around. What is she so afraid of?

Turns out a lot of people in Evergreen are keeping secrets.

When the bank is robbed and Dent has to do what he does best, choices will be made, lies will be exposed, and hearts will break. It’s going to be an interesting Christmas in Evergreen

Hang Your Heart on Christmas Details

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Linda says

Terrific Book

This is another excellent book by Ms Blanton. It's a great story of a man who's burdened with a pain that's hurting his heart and tearing his soul into pieces. For so long Dent has delivered death that he's found he doesn't know how to live. Then he's reassigned to his hometown, a place he desperately wants to escape from, where he finds something and someone who makes him want to change. Through God and a school teacher Dent finds his way back to the light and out of the darkness that he's been living in. A wonderful book as are all of Ms Blanton's. I certainly recommend this to everyone who likes good books.

Beverly says

You can enjoy this short, historical novella in just a few short hours. This is a story that only involves Christmas incidentally. Instead, it is a book about struggling within ourselves with our short-comings. Two people are hurting badly. One comes from innocence imposed upon. The other from a thirst for vengeance until life contains no meaning at all. Both are trying to escape their realities. Both hurting parties meet in the most peaceful town in the old West. Will they help each other heal their wounds? Or will those wounds drive the other away?

Robert "Dent" Hernandez was the son of a US Marshall gunned down by a bad guy. Dent determines he will find his father's killer and get vengeance for his loss. That sets him on the trail for 8 years, becoming a US Marshall himself, hunting down criminals and bringing them to justice while he searched. In the last leg of his journey, he ended up in his home town of Evergreen, Wyoming when tragedy strikes. The man who had become a substitute father to him, Sheriff Ben Hayes, was shot to death by a low life in Dent's charge. During the investigation of the sheriff's death, the judge placed Dent as interim sheriff. He doesn't want to stay, but he has no choice.

Amy Tate had come from the East, sent by her doctor to Evergreen. He assured her that she was heading to the West's most peaceful town where there were more churches than saloons. She was put in old Doc Woodruff's care for awhile because she was recovering from what we would call PTSD today. And she was to become the town's new schoolteacher. Unfortunately, the first moment she stepped off the train, she was grabbed by the man who shot the sheriff and fainted dead away. That was not a reassuring beginning to her new life in this small town. And at the center of the trouble was the man called "Dent".

This is a fairly quick paced story of the old wild west. It begins with the death of the main character's old friend in his home town. Dent was beginning to unravel. His story includes a mystery, lots of self searching, a light romance, some old friends, and a ranch Dent didn't want to settle on. Amy too was going through a transition in her life as she recovers from an attack back East. Both are encouraged and aided by an older couple, the Doctor and Mrs. Woodruff.

Amy has faith in God that He will help her heal. In the meantime, she feels drawn to also help the interim sheriff in his quest for meaning in life. She believes God could help him heal his wounded spirit if only he

would let Him. Their romance is the light touch in the book. It pretty much takes a back seat to the main issue of inner healing that Dent needs to move on with life. Overall, this is a great short story with enough action to move it along nicely. The romance is not overpowering, while the spiritual applications are light but significant to the story line. I highly recommend this book if you are looking for a short, powerful holiday read.

Kayleen says

I won this book through a giveaway by the author, Heather Blanton. I love westerns, Christmas stories and clean romance novels so this book fit the bill on all three! I really liked Dent and Amy's characters and would love to read more about them. Even though it was only 200 pages the novella packed a lot into it. Dent Hernandez's and Amy Tate's characters were well written, especially Dent's. I love stories that can make you feel for the characters and this one did it perfectly. It was a great read and I would recommend it to my friends and family.

Patty Rude says

Dent learns a lesson

It took me a while to get into this story, that is why i gave it 4 out of 5 stars. But I really enjoyed the second half.

Dent learns that he just can't hold onto his need for revenge. In order to move on and enjoy a life with Amy he has to let it go.

Robyn Echols says

A Christmas of Hope

A sweet romance about characters with issues and challenges who have choices to make. Some bad guys were easy to identify, one kept me guessing about just what he had been up to, all add to the choices to be made as the spirit of Christmas approaches.

Nadine Keels says

U.S. Marshal Robert "Dent" Hernandez doesn't want to be stuck in the town of Evergreen. He just wants to get back to hunting down the man who killed his father--whoever the killer is. But the arrival of the town's lovely new schoolteacher, Amy Tate, puts a hitch in Dent's plans in *Hang Your Heart on Christmas* by author Heather Blanton.

Here's a gritty holiday tale if there ever was one. It's got the danger and rough-edged intrigue of the West, but it still manages to be warm and sweet when it needs to be. I could feel for Dent in all of his social awkwardness, was most pulled in the closer he got to the crux of his soul-deep turmoil, felt a spark of pride

for Amy the more she faced her fears--and was quite delighted to read of this heroine who loves books and wears spectacles. Whoohoo for girls with glasses!

I found an inner conversation or two of Dent's and Amy's to be a little redundant but not uninteresting. And I was touched by the message central to the story, that there's more to life than death. It makes the Christmas theme here all the more significant. And beautiful.

This novella has been a good helping of Christmas in July for me, and I'd recommend it to other lovers of Christian romance, particularly those who'd appreciate taking a little trip out West.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Jeanie says

Review to follow! I loved this....

Tammi says

I've now read all 6 of Heather Blanton's books that I could find. She writes great Christian Westerns. I read Hang Your Heart on Christmas at the end of June. Certainly don't wait for Christmas to read this story. Consider this novella an early Christmas gift.

Betti says

Everyone can change!

Mix a suspended as US Marshall with a small town where nothing exciting ever happens and you have the makings of yet another great story by this author. Follow Dent as he learns that justice and vengeance are two totally different things and that he can change and become a lawman that cares for those around him. Meet Amy that has suffered greatly and is now in Evergreen to learn to trust herself and others.

Amy says

This was a sweet story about a sheriff who needed to find his peace, and a school teacher who needed to find her confidence. It was really good! It was suppose to be a Christmas story...it is, but in the birth of Jesus sense. Which I loved. But I wish it would have had more "Christmasy" stuff. I chose this for the season, and could have read it any other time instead.

Denise says

> sigh < LOVED IT! Dent was easy to love, the mayor easy to dislike and Amy was sweetly adorable. It's not a "preachy" story (for those that shy away from such writing). It was a refreshing and endearing story. Heather's writing draws you in ~ I could "feel" Amy's fear and trepidation from the attack that precipitated her move to Evergreen and Dent's turmoil of giving up finding his father's murderer.

Dotty says

"Hang Your Heart on Christmas" is another awesome western, exciting read, from beginning to end. Set in the quaint, quiet town of Evergreen. Dent, who was a U.S. Marshal now the sheriff who hunted some of the worst criminals in the country that often hide out in Wyoming, and Amy, the shy, nervous school teacher who had just arrived in town to take the new teaching position to try to heal emotionally.

Dent is forced to take over the sheriff's job in his hometown while the judge investigated his role in the accidental shooting death of Dent's father figure and friend, the former Sheriff. Dent hates Evergreen, he doesn't want to be there.

Amy has to start facing her fears, she seems very fragile, afraid of her own shadow. Can Amy find her confidence? I would have loved to know her.

Can the two put away their fears, anger and come to know and care about each other. Don't miss out on bank robberies and gun fights.

This book showed me even our best intentions will not get us into heaven. It also shows through the character of Amy, God uses the most unlikely to get His job done.

I receive complimentary books for review from publishers, publicists, and/or authors. I am not required to write positive reviews. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255

Marlene says

A nice Christmas story..

This book is a historical western, shots fired, bank robbed, crooked community leaders and some romance on the side. Amy, the school teacher, and Dent, the new Sheriff, make the story. This is a Christian book and enjoyable any time of the year.

Lisa says

Nice quick Christmas romance. Okay characters and expected plot. Some uneven writing, but overall enjoyable and relaxing.

Leigh says

This is a great story for those who really enjoy current holidays being reflected in their books. I read this over Christmas 2018 and really enjoyed it. This is a lightweight read, easy to finish in a weekend or even a single evening. I really enjoyed having the feel of Christmas in my Christmas-time read. If that is something you enjoy, also, I think this would be a good read for you.

Dent's character, for me, was a little incongruous. There is effort to have him being on a personal-growth journey, but I never quite got that from the story. He starts out as any Beast would. Gruff, short in manner and speech, driven by a past hurt that has turned him rather feral. By the end of the story, he has regained his humanity and is a much more well-rounded person. He has also come to terms with letting go of his pain.

I had a much easier time getting into Amy's character. She really resonated with me, possibly because we share certain experiences in common. Either way, I really enjoyed reading from her perspective. She was the perfect counter-point to Dent. Where he is dark and gloomy, she is determined and courageous. The two together were a fun read. Again, very lighthearted.

I highly recommend for a simple evening or weekend read.

Read this and more of my reviews at:

www.memoirsofabookwyrm.com
