



A Gentle Giving

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Willa Hammer has nothing left after narrowly escaping the lynch mob that unjustly hanged her foster father except her dog, her faith, and the protection of a secretive family. She joins their wagon train heading West, never realizing she is traveling to the wilds of Bighorn Mountain, where a rundown ranch and the arms of an untamed, hardened cowboy await her.

A Gentle Giving Details

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Fay Risner says

I was raised reading westerns, and this one has all the elements, handsome man, pretty woman, gruff but likeable cowhands, a crazy funny Indian, struggles, gunfights and lovely scenery. The characters made this story one I really liked. It was easy to put myself in the story as I read. I found myself rooting for Willa and Smith to get together and hoping that Smith didn't get himself killed. When Jo Bell was throwing a fit, I even wanted to slap her for Willa. I can see this book making a good movie.

Flora says

Enjoyed the book very much. I'm a big Dorothy Garlock fan. I love her portrayals of the Old West and frontier times. She emphasizes the hardships and reminds us that not all the participants were "good guys". In a Gentle Giving she highlights characters who were essentially orphans and their quest for love. She also touches on the paradox of people who desperately need love, but who are either unable to give love or feel that they are not worthy of love. Keep a tissue handy!

Rebeca Martinez says

In my quest to read All of Dorothy Garlock's books I am finding out that almost all of her books are either a hit or a miss. A Gentle Giving was unfortunately for me a miss. While the beginning of the plot is set up nicely. The young heroine Willa recused from being raped and hung by a man who is unscrupulous as the very people who wanted to kill her. But the rest of the novel falls flat. Jo Bell is horrible to Willa and yet nothing karma worthy really happens to her?? I find A Gentle Giving to be the most confusing novel that Miss Garlock has ever written.

Christine says

A very enjoyable Dorothy Garlock book once again! I picked this off the shelf to pass the time one day while waiting for my child to finish his library art class. I was very happy to have gotten so lucky! Usually I research each and every book I read prior, but this was just another Garlock and Garlock = gold. I thought I had read almost all of her books from the old west. I will have to research more of her books. The book starts out in mid action, a girl being thrown from her house, whipped by locals who had killed her disfigured father calling her a witch or a prostitute. Luckily a wagon rolling by helped her to escape, unfortunately the man who saved her and his snooty daughter are not much better than a mob. Atleast the son is kind to her and her dog.
I loved this story very much.

Linda says

I hate to give one star to any book but this was really awful. Perhaps the story would have been better if I didn't have to stumble through considerable editing difficulties. Whoever was in charge of this department at Warner books should have been fired. My copy is the first edition and there were numerous punctuation problems. So much so that it detracted from the story. I have never, I repeat never, read a book with this many mistakes.

Willa Hammer headed west after losing her adopted family. Settling in the Bighorn Mountains she comes upon various melodramatic characters that think only of themselves. One of the characters just grated on my nerves. You'll know who it is without naming names.

Smith Bowman, the hero, is a loner in many ways. When he meets Willa he is leery of her at first. In denial, he doesn't want to admit to himself that he is attracted to her. It scares him. Of course, we know how the story ends.

If you find another edition without all the mistakes AND if hokey language doesn't bother you, you may like this romance. "Gee, whillikers!", ain't, yore, a'tall, comin', doin', ya, takin', how'er, 'spect, what'a, hell no, hell yes, damn glad..... Enough!

Cphe says

This isn't quite as strongly written as other books I've read by the author. For a start it doesn't have the secondary romance that you find in a lot of the author's other novels. I did like Willa and Smith, I thought they were a well matched couple but Jo Bell was without doubt one of the most irritating characters I've ever come across. She didn't have any redeeming qualities at all. I would have enjoyed seeing her get her comeuppance but to my mind that just didn't happen.

This book does have a lot of the trademarks that the author is known for, a well plotted romance, some "grittiness", to the plot and characters, authentic western atmosphere and a hero and heroine that you can genuinely engage with. I do like this author very much but this one was a bit of a miss for me.

Megan says

Every book I read by dorothy garlock is great!! The story pulls the reader in and I have to finish it in a day or 2.

Kristin Poley says

This was a little too helpless girl/man-to-the-rescue for me. I mean, they fall in love after a 20 minute argument? The characters were annoying as well..and why didn't she just kill off Jo Bell?

Helena says

Wonderful story, fast read.

Alrasti1 says

Willa has suffered at the hands of a crazed mob that killed her father, burned her house down, and beat her while chasing her out of town. She is quickly saved by a slick card cheat on his way with his two teen children to his brother-in-laws house. Willa soon finds that the daughter Jo Bell is a horrible monster of a person who makes her life horrible. The only bright light that Willa encounters is Charlie the teenaged son who secretly has a crush on her. Along the trail to their destination the father is killed for cheating at cards and Willa finds herself stuck and feeling responsible for the teens. Planning to drop the teens off with their uncle Oliver's and then move on she needs assistance and safety because Jo Bell is hell bent on calling all male attention to herself in search of a rich husband.

Smith is orphaned at a young age and taken in by a loving man named Oliver who raises him right. After a horrible accident that killed Oliver everyone blames Smith and Oliver's wife Maud is especially horrible to Smith. Finding solace in the arms of whore's and alcohol Smith is in horrible shape when Willa happens upon him in need of someone to accompany the trio to Oliver's home. Drunk and disorderly is what Willa finds in Smith and quickly feels disgust for the handsome drunk and is irritated that she has to fight her attraction. Time and misunderstandings interrupt what soon blossoms into a beautiful and heart wrenching love story. It will take all the love and forgiveness that Willa has to break through Smith's mourning of Oliver's death and his self-blame. What comes once Willa breaks through Smith's defenses is a love that will last for all time.

This story is sweet and real. The romance takes time and both characters are flawed and suffer from many wrongs done to them. The flow of the story is beautiful and a heart warming story. This is no smutty romance where the girl falls in love/lust after knowing the guy for a day. This romance builds over time and is believable. This book is utterly sweet and a must read with sweeping descriptions of the west and how life was when Cowboys roamed the streets and people fought to survive. Finding love against all the odds makes this book simply beautiful!
