



## Heart of a Hero

*Marie Higgins*

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When Summer Bennett returns to Richfield after a five-year stint at her aunt's finishing school, she discovers a lot has changed. Her father has suffered a crippling injury, and Summer is desperate to get the money to pay for surgery that could allow him to walk again. She hears of a reward offered for the capture of a cunning gang of bank robbers, and her years of etiquette training fall by the dusty roadside. What Summer doesn't count on in her quest to capture the bandits is the competition from her family's longtime friend, Jesse Slade. Now a deputy marshal and local hero, Jesse keeps thwarting Summer's plans, just like he did when she wore pigtails. She would like nothing more than to use Jesse's head for a slingshot target, but soon Summer finds her aim shifting from his head to his heart. Problem is, Jesse is engaged to her sister Violet. For seven years, little Summer was the burr under Jesse's saddle. Now he feels a different irritation as Summer is always on his mind.

## Heart of a Hero Details

Date : Published September 14th 2010 by Walnut Springs Press (first published January 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9781935217817

Author : Marie Higgins

Format : Paperback 291 pages

Genre : Romance, Westerns, Historical, Historical Fiction, Historical Romance, Clean Romance, Christianity, Lds, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Heart of a Hero for online ebook

### Shellie says

Summer and Jesse go way back. They have always had a love to hate you relationship. Jesse is engaged to Summer's sister, Violet. Secretly, Clint, Jesse's older brother is in love with Violet. Jesse and Violet finally come to terms with the fact that they love each other more as brother and sister, and not husband and wife. Open the door for Summer and Jesse! And Violet and Clint. Jesse and Clint are Deputy Marshalls trying to catch the Buchanan gang. They catch Summer instead, when she unknowingly stumbles on the gang trying to do Jesse in. She warns Jesse in time, and is taken by the gang. It is an all out-showdown to get her back. Just when all seems it is finally settled, an old score of Summer's comes back to settle the deal. She wouldn't love him, so he will take her anyways along with the bounty money she has from the capture of the Buchanan gang. Summer and Jesse, Violet and Clint all end at the altar just as planned, and all is well after the scrapes, scuffles, fights, and arrests.

I really liked this one!

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### Leaffrog03 says

I really enjoyed reading this book. Summer is your typical tomboy who is sent away to her Aunt's finishing school. When she comes home, her coach is attacked and she helps to save the day. She also is partially rescued by Jesse Slade. She realizes that Jesse is now a handsome deputy marshall instead of the annoying boy he was when she left. She is attracted to him, and he is attracted to her, but he is engaged to her sister Violet. Also, there is group of bandits on the loose that Summer is determined to capture so she can earn the money to help her father recover from his injuries. Summer will have to put both her newfound womanly skills and her tomboyish ways in order to help her family out and win the man she loves. This book has got adventure and romance that will keep you interested until the very end.

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### Sheila says

Heart of a Hero is such a fun read. The tension between the two main characters keeps this story moving along. Summer and Jesse dance around each other through most of the book. I found myself "telling" them to quit being dumb and admit to loving each other. The beauty of Summer and Jesse is that they are not the perfect couple you usually find in a romance. They once were just children/teens that lived to annoy each other. As you can see, this makes for a rocky road at times, but also shows the deep intimacy they have.

To read more of this review please go to:  
<http://whynotbecauseisaidso.blogspot....>

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### Sheryl C.s. says

This is a review from my blog... This was the first Marie Higgins book I read and I adored it!!

There is nothing like a good book to rescue you from the hum drum of everyday living. It's amazing to me that another person can literally daydream on paper and transport me to another place and time. I recently read *Heart of a Hero* by Marie Higgins.

It started innocently enough. I read a few pages in the morning, intrigued by the unexpected quirks of the characters. Soon we were on errand number three and I was reading at stoplights, kid number two on green light alert. This could only last for so many stop lights before annoying my green-light-alerter, who felt she had better things to do than watch traffic signals. I figure I was doing my duty, getting her acclimated to the world of driving and its many laws at the ripe, early age of eleven.

Soon we were wrestling over the book, her figuring if the offending book were gone, the responsible mother would return. What I did not realize was the oldest child, my thirteen year old, who never in her life had expressed interest in Christian romance, was watching this exchange, calculating how interesting a book that would cause such contention must be. Yoink! Child number one plucked the book from both of us. I didn't see it for a day and a half. I wrestled her at morning carpool, barely letting it slip through my fingers as she toted it into the school. I chased her over carpet in my electrifying fuzzy socks for it after dinner, delivering several successful shocks before she was able to hide away with it.

The problem was that feisty Summer Bennett and Deputy Marshal Jesse Slade had some refreshing banter going on, a whole lot of problems to untangle, and a twangy cadence I couldn't get out of my head. It was torture being away from the book. To make matters worse the teenager would emerge from her hiding place from time to time to announce "This is sooooo good." She was smiling ear to ear, trembling with giddiness as she held that carrot of information just out of reach. I sat on my bed folding laundry, listening to her laughter reverberate through the heat register. My room is just above hers. She'd squeal out to taunt me, "This is so exciting!" knowing I could hear her through the vents.

Finally, looking as though she'd just spent an afternoon pampered at a day spa, she danced into my room, collapsed on my bed, and let the book fall limply from her hand. "Where's the next one?" she asked dreamily. I did what any deprived from the good book she was reading mother would do. I tugged her out the door, left her in a dreamy heap in the hall, and locked myself in my room.

At one in the morning, with ten pages left to read, my husband came home from working a late shift. I was unashamed of having done nothing for hours. The sink full of dishes and laundry on the bed were battle scars for having waited so long to get my book back. The true measure of a good book is how much housework goes undone when reading it. Unlike most Christian romance the last several pages of *Heart of a Hero* are as exciting as the first, and by now I was head over heals in love with the characters. My husband brushed his teeth and readied himself for bed. I read on greedily. He sat beside me, talking about his day. I had only pages left. Couldn't he see I was reading? I was swept away to antiquated Richfield, Utah, wondering how Summer and Jesse were going to get out of this last scrape. Unable to bear the distraction, I turned to my husband, clamping a hand over his mouth. I then used my impressive coordination skills to hold the book with my other hand and turn pages with my face.

Moments later it was my turn to collapse back on the bed and let the book fall limply from my hand. I loved the unpredictable plot. The banter was priceless, making me smile and at times laugh out loud. I have a short attention span so the quick pace of adventure mingled with romance was just what the doctor ordered to kick me out of my hum drum week. By far my favorite thing about *Heart of a Hero* was how much my Wuthering

Heights, pirate adventure, sword fighting addict of a daughter loved it. I've never seen her so alive about a book.

So cheers to those who daydream on paper and double cheers to Marie Higgins for doing it well!

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### **Michelle says**

Three and a half stars. Really liked the characters and plot. Thought the book should have ended and not played out every single subplot line, but liked it nonetheless. I will look by more from this author.

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### **Teya Peck says**

WOW!!! I loved it!!! I was actually worried to read it thinking it was like a couple others, but I took the plunge. Nothing to worry about a good, clean, well written book. It actually reminded me a lot of my Dad in parts of the book and that is near and dear to my heart. I will be looking forward to more books. I finished it in a day and a half and I don't consider myself a fast reader. I took a short break from the one I was reading, soooooo worth it!

I have to add there is only one other of my favorite writers that rivals the cleanly written intense patriotic moments and kisses in this book. whoooo!

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### **Candice says**

First Reads Win!! I can't wait until I receive the book so I can start reading it!

When I first started reading the book I was getting distracted by the 'Utah' association. Every time I read 'Richfield' or 'Gunnison' I would be off on a memory of one of those places. It was also slightly predictable. There were a few twists and turns that were surprising, but the love story part I completely guessed at.

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### **Breanna says**

When I read the back of the book I wasn't sure I wanted to read it, because it brought a thought to my mind, "Are the sisters going to be speaking to each other by the end of the book?" I love my sisters, so I hesitated, but I loved her other book, *Winning Mr. Wrong*, so I decided to give it a go. I am so glad that I did. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I loved it! I liked the characters and it had a wonderful, happy, satisfying ending. I will definitely be re-reading this book in the future.

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### **Theresa Sneed says**

Heart of a Hero is a sweet romance that will delight you with its intriguing story-line and believable characters. Summer Bennett left the small town of Richfield five years ago to learn how to become a proper

lady at her aunt's boarding school. But you know how the old adage goes ... you can make a lady out of a tomboy, but you can't take the tomboy out of even the finest of ladies. You'll love Summer because she is very much a lady, but a lady who can and does take care of herself. Jesse Slade was a source of irritation to her before she left Richfield--the typical older-boy tease, and even now, as a Deputy Marshall, she does not think him suited as a future husband for her sister Violet. But the more their paths cross, the more attracted she finds herself to him.

Jesse's feelings parallel Summer's--the same irritation and initial dislike and then an overwhelming, heart thumping attraction to her. Follow this captivating and oh, so delightful story as the two fight their powerful attraction to each other to its very satisfying end.

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### **Brenda says**

Etiquette school for tomboys?!? Summer did her time and has come home to her struggling family. Her sister is engaged to a man she can't stand (well, she kinda thinks he's handsome) a father that's been crippled in an accident, and a livery that can't run itself. What's a girl to do but dust off her britches and get to work? I loved Summer- she's spunky, sassy, and a lot of fun. She loves her sister dearly and is alarmed at the growing feelings she has for her sister's fiance. Jesse is a butt. He is equally attracted to Summer but has loyalties to Violet and her father to think of. The subplots are rich and interesting, and the story moves fast. It takes quite a leap from reality to believe all the instances of distrust and physical harm that come to the main characters, but then again, that's what fictional romance is all about :)

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### **Danyelle Ferguson says**

Really enjoyed this book. I didn't want to put it down all day. I took it with me for all my errands and running kids to and from activities just so I could get in a couple more pages. Really great historical romance with a sassy heroine and a pesky hero.

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### **Connie says**

I enjoyed reading the first 2/3 or so of this book, and then it got to be a bit back-and-forth and back-and forth towards the end. It was also pretty predictable. I would have rated it a 4 on the first 2/3.

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### **Katie says**

I rarely give five stars to christian books. Because the story line is often interrupted by religious inserts that are either too heavy or awkward for the story to carry. But this book added it in so tastefully that you didn't feel it was overpowering and it made sense. Summer is a really good heroine. And actually, her flaws didn't make me hate her. I really liked the hero Jesse, and his flaws didn't take away from his hero status. Really good yet tasteful kissing. Right up there with a Marcia M book. I highly recommend this book.

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### **Linda says**

Summer Bennett Tried Hard Not To Touch The Over Weight Man Seated Next To Her But The Stagecoach Rocked In The Ruts That It Was Impossible To Not Bump Into Him Or Smell His Breath, Just A Few More Miles And She Would Be Home And Show What The Teachings Of Her Aunt's School Had Transformed A Tomboy Into A Proper Lady! Then Shots Rang Out Taking The Driver And His Look Out. The Coach Was Unmanned And The Elderly Occupants Would Be No Help, Someone Must Get Control Of The Horses Or They Would All Die, So Summer Hoisted Herself Out The Window And Ducked When A Bullet Whizzed By Her Head.....

Deputy Marshal Jesse Slade Stood At The Depot And Checked The Time Once Again, The Stage Coach Was An Hour Late And Violet Asked Him To Go Get Her Sister And He Could not Refuse The Woman He Intended To Marry If She Would Settle On A Date, As Far As Getting The Little Spitfire Summer He Grinned At The Thought Of Her Seeming Him Again And Knew He Would Rub Her The Wrong Way With Just His Presence.....

Marie Higgins Spins A Wonderful Tale With A Christian Plot And A Dynamite Story Where Jesse Lost His Faith In God When His Boyhood Friend Died But Turned To God When Summer Was Kidnapped By A Gang Of Bank Robbers. Summer Is Confused When Violet And Jesse Do Not Act Like A Happy Couple About To Be Married And Vowed To Make Them See That They Do Not Belong Together.

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### **June Guymon says**

"Heart of a Hero" is a good read. The tension between the two main characters keeps this story moving along. Summer and Jesse dance around each other through most of the book and the novel is fairly predictable, but still fun.

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