



A Lawman's Christmas\Daring Moves

Linda Lael Miller

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The sudden death of the town marshal leaves Blue River, Texas, without a lawman...and twenty-five-year-old Dara Rose Nolan without a husband. As winter approaches and her meager seamstress income dwindles, she has three options. Yet she won't give up her two young daughters, refuses to join the fallen women of the Bitter Gulch Saloon and can't fathom condemning herself to another loveless marriage. Unfortunately she must decide—soon—because there's a new marshal in town, and she's living under his roof. With the heart of a cowboy, Clay McKettrick plans to start a ranch and finally settle down. He isn't interested in uprooting Dara Rose and her children, but he is interested in giving her protection, friendship—and passion. And when they say "I do" to a marriage of convenience, the temporary lawman's Christmas wish is to make Dara Rose his permanent wife....

A Lawman's Christmas\Daring Moves Details

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Author : Linda Lael Miller

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Harlequin Historical says

Miniseries: McKettricks of Texas

Anne Holly says

Two pretty nice vacation reads in one. Of the two, the first (A Lawman's Christmas) was best, in my opinion, but both were good for some quality R&R.

The first, set in 1915, showed some nifty writing, and excellent characters. While it would have been nice if the lawman had actually done some lawman stuff (to legitimize his whole purpose being there), the general flow of the story made up for the small weaknesses. The hero was likeable and the heroine was sympathetic, and the two girls were wonderfully precocious without being obnoxious, and the dialogue was consistently enjoyable.

The second, Daring Moves, was a more standard contemporary romance, between a gun-shy young woman and a wealthy widower. The characters were pleasant, and, though written in 1990, it's aged pretty well. This one was less of a stand-out than the first, and feels a bit imitative of the genre, but it was certainly readable. The biggest weakness, for me, was the constant sex, which felt like avoidance of actual issues by the main characters - I realize that people do do this in real life (i.e. just have sex instead of talking things through), so it rang true; it just got a bit tiring, after a while.

I always admire Miller's writing, and enjoy her books. It's interesting to see how much more confident her writing got between 1990 and 2012.

If you're looking for an annual holiday romance fest, and like genre romance, I'd recommend them - though, it should be noted that the first story is much more Christmas-focused than the second (in which Christmas comprises only a section of the overall story). Both are worth reading, with the first novella being very enjoyable, and the second being affective, if less memorable.

Tiffany Tufte says

Awesome book

Laura says

So, I thought the first story was actually pretty good. I would have given it a 3 star if it had been alone. However, the second story was terrible, and I could not even finish it. I ended up scanning the story. Glad I didn't finish reading it. I would have given it a one star alone.

The first story, although good, left some unresolved questions. I think she was planning on making this a full novel and either needed something to quickly put out or she lost interest in it, so adapted it as a short story. Either way, it was still cute. The best part of the book was one of the main characters shared a name with my daughter.

Tiffany B. says

This is a sexy and fun book. I love how relentless the hero is with the heroine. It's one of my favorite Christmas books now.

Kathy Buxton says

My rating is strictly for "A Lawman's Christmas", which I enjoyed reading. Personally, I thought the female main character was a little boring, but it didn't detract from the story for me. I felt the warmth of Christmas and happy endings as I read it. I do love the McKetterick series of books that Linda Lael Miller has written. Can feel the time period as I read the story. Didn't care for "Daring Moves" - very dated and didn't care for either character very much - should have been updated before being paired with "A Lawman's Christmas".

Sharon says

It was only \$.99 so I picked it up. Amazon did not say I had purchased it before. Then I started reading and it sounded familiar. OH, I had read it last year when it was packaged as a single volume. This one was packaged with an old Miller book, Daring Moves.

I did enjoy reading A Lawman's Christmas again. More than I enjoyed reading Daring Moves. Daring Moves is not a good book. The level of detail is uneven. Miller can tell you all about food and fashion and hair styles. But buying a home and moving in is ignored. They happen with lightning speed and zero difficulty. Amanda's behavior is erratic and childish with her constantly running away. Yet with one look and three little words, the couple ends up together and forever in love.

Nancy says

I was a little disappointed with Linda Lael Miller on this book. I've loved her McKetterick series but this book just seemed so stilted. I felt the same way about Daring Moves. To me neither story read very smoothly - almost like a first time author.

Demetra Smith says

a typical Christmas story from Linda Miller.

Sandy Forman-Johnson says

Nice two for one. Both stories were easy reading that left you wanting more. Linda Lael Miller is always fun to read.

Gemma says

3.5 stars for "A Lawman's Christmas", a short but enjoyable historical romance. Didn't finish "Daring Moves", the bonus reissue of a 90s contemporary. I felt the characters hopped into bed too fast considering all the hangups they both had.

While this is part of a series, I haven't read any of the other books, and I wasn't lost, so I think it can stand alone.
