



The Dove: The Second Day

Shanna Hatfield

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Bewitched, beguiled, and in over his head. . . *The marvelous, mysterious woman is his bride-to-be?*

Culver Daniels spent years cultivating a peaceful, orderly existence with his blacksmith shop and livery business. Then the pastor of Noelle landed upon a crazy scheme to save the town by sending for a bunch of mail-order brides. Despite his determination to remain single, Culver finds himself among those agreeing to wed. The moment he meets the beautiful gypsy woman he's promised to marry, he realizes life will never be the same.

Widow Kezia Mirga has no desire to marry again. Yet, for the sake of her most cherished treasure, she decides to wed a man in a remote Colorado mining town. She arrives to find nothing as she expected, the town in a state of turmoil, and her intended far more handsome and charming than she imagined. Dare she dream of a future with the burly blacksmith, or should she escape back to Denver before she loses her heart?

Will true love triumph over secrets and surprises in this sweet and wholesome holiday romance?

The Dove is second in a series of 12 novellas.

??? Meet the inhabitants of Noelle, Colorado, the little town at the heart of this historical series.

His gaze traveled from Mrs. Boonesbury to the woman behind her. "And your name, Miss?"

A slight blush dusted the woman's cheeks with pink as she lifted chocolate-colored eyes to his. Culver had always been quite partial to chocolate. He could quickly grow accustomed to staring into eyes that held such mesmerizing flecks of amber light among their glossy depths.

When she didn't respond, he took a step closer, but Mrs. Boonesbury subtly shifted to block him from the stunning woman.

Culver moved to the right and so did the gypsy's self-appointed guard. He shifted to the left, as did Mrs. Boonesbury. A few more steps back and forth and Culver decided the old woman was not only a fair dancer, but also the most irritating person he'd encountered in a long while. He couldn't fathom a single reason why she'd prevent him from getting any closer to the gypsy woman, but she undoubtedly planned to do so.

Defeated, at least temporarily, Culver looked again to the dark-haired woman. "Miss? What's your name? Who are you to marry?"

"You, Mr. Daniels," she said in a soft, alluring voice that melted Culver's insides and turned his brain to mush. "I'm Kezia Mirga, but my friends call me Zee."

"You're even more beautiful than I dreamed, Miss Mirga," Culver said, shocked to discover his tongue joined the rebellion his heart and feet had already staged against his good sense.

The Dove: The Second Day Details

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From Reader Review The Dove: The Second Day for online ebook

Dorothy Roller says

The second story in the Twelve Days Christmas Mail Order Brides is amazing and such a sweet and fun story. I loved this story written by Shanna Hatfield as I have all her stories. It is sweet, fun, sarcastic and witty and full of sass. Her heroine Kezia is a Gypsy and of course that brings some bit of a mystical, yet fun side to the character coming to Noelle, CO along with all the eleven other brides including the mail order woman who arranged this all with the request of the pastor of this men only town.

Culver the hero is the blacksmith of the town and Kezia's intended groom. He is one of the really respectable men in town. He was against the idea of getting married but somehow went to draw straws along with the other men who wanted a bride and ended up being one of twelve men who drew the short straws so he has to write to the mail order agency to find a bride. Meanwhile he has his doubts over and over about this whole thing until he sees the most stunning woman in the group who he finds attracted to.

One problem that could keep them apart is both having badly past childhoods and history alone the way.

Oh this story is fantastic and fun to read, had me smiling and laughing out loud, I wouldn't expect anything less from Shanna Hatfield. This is a must read in this series. From the woman and some of the men mentioned in this book I can imagine the rest of this series will be good.

I was offered this ARC and took it because I wanted to read another of Shanna Hatfield's stories. This review is because I wanted to review it after reading and I was under no pressure to do one and didn't get anything for doing so.

Cynthia says

I remember signing The Twelve days of Christmas at a very young age it has always been one of my favorites. I love how each author had incorporated the song to go with it in a style that really brings it to life. The Dove is a sweet little baby who is just adorable with a mother who has lived a very hard life. She has had very little to call her own but need to take care of her daughter. Meeting up with a lady who is taking women to become mail order brides she is talked in to going along. This is a big step for her, she is scared and alone with nowhere else to turn. She is just hoping for a man who will be nice to them both which is something she has never had. Her story just broke my heart.

Culver doesn't want a wife but goes along with the rest of the men to help make this place into a town. He isn't expecting much, most likely will have someone who is trying to get away and homely. That is ok with him he doesn't need anyone taking his attention away from his business. He never would have guessed one lady would stand out and take his heart in her hand. Kezia takes his breath away from the first time he has set eyes on her. She has a secret he doesn't know about when this comes out he is left rethinking this marriage deal. If she is hiding something this big what else is she hiding, can she be trusted.

A sweet romance where two people need to learn to overcome issues, learn to trust as they try to find away to build a life together. A very touching story of survival dealing with the hand you have been given as so many mail order brides had to. It's a very unique plot that really pulls you in with humor, laughter and a little sorrow. I can't think of anyone who deserves to find happiness more than Kezia who has had none. A

touching story full of love, kindness as two people get to know each other. I loved how Culver falls in love with little Dove, how he talked with her, showed her things they both stole my heart. Love the characters, the plot and the ending which makes you misty eyed. The author really knows how to pull her readers in giving them an emotional touching read. I thought the gifts he made were a very touching wonderful addition to the stories plot. Just totally a pleasure to read and get taken back in time feeling like you are part of the story. The romance was very touching. The ending so sweet, I can't wait to read more in this series it looks to be a delightful fun series and with wonderful Christmas stories that will put you in the mood for a delightful holiday that is so full of love, sharing and caring.

Michelle says

I adored this sweet book! Culver and Zee's story captured my heart with all the beauty and vulnerability and leaps of faith they took to claim their HEA with each other. This is definitely one of my favorite historical Christmas books I've read this year.

Hebby Roman says

Loved the book, very nice Christmas story!

Alma Conchas says

I love christmas romance books and when the authors of this series came out with it, it sounded very interesting. That is why when Mrs. Shanna Hatfield let us read it for her, I got it and boy I was not disappointed in the least. I loved this story so much because it reminded me of my situation with my husband how he accepted me with 4 kids, that he's been raising as his own. Thank you so much Mrs. Hatfield for letting me read and review this book for you, I loved loved loved your story and it truly made me want to read the rest of the series to find out if all the couples got their HEA like Culver and Kezia found theirs. I can't wait to get them!

Doni says

The Dove, by Shanna Hatfield is a wonderful Christmas book. It's the Second Day, of the new series, The Twelve Days of Mail-Order Brides. This touching story is about the town's blacksmith, Culver & his bride-to-be Kezia. Kezia is to arrive today, & Culver's a nervous wreck. He thought he would never marry. When the brides walk into the saloon, where the grooms-to-be are waiting, he is mesmerized by an exotic beauty. When Culver & Kezia meet, he wants her, as his bride.

But, there is one part, Kezia left out about her life, in her correspondence with Culver. Once her secret is revealed, will he still want to marry her?
I loved, & really enjoyed reading this story.
A MUST READ FOR EVERYONE!!!

Tonya Lucas says

Whether it's a contemporary or a historical book, Shanna Hatfield has the ability to draw a reader into her books and embrace each and every character.

Her books are heartfelt, memorable, and everlasting, long after you finish the last sentence.

The Dove is an exceptional Christmas book which will melt your heart and truly pull you into the spirit of Christmas.

The sparks that ignite between Culver and Kezia are instant as they lock eyes at their first meeting, but she's keeping a secret from him, one he never dreamed would melt his heart and bring him complete joy.

A phenomenal book of hope, joy, and everlasting love.

Shash says

On the second day of Christmas... Isn't this a fun idea for a series!?! 12 Days. 12 Mail-order Brides. As someone that loves everything Christmas, this series immediately had appeal. Add that Shanna Hatfield is one of my favorite authors, and I couldn't wait to read The Dove. I absolutely loved it!!

It didn't take me long to fall in love with Culver. Less than halfway through the prologue he had won me over. His letter was sweet and honest and completely endearing. Just like the man himself. Kezia is so full of life! Which is amazing after everything she's been through. She is friendly and kind and a wonderful mother. I love them as a couple! They're not an obvious match, which is part of what makes it so good. And baby Jemimah is just precious!

This is the first book I've read in the series. (I know, I know – second day. I'll go back and read the first.) Several of the characters from the series make cameos. It just made me more excited to read their stories! This is going to be a great series!

I received a complimentary copy of the book, which I voluntarily reviewed. I have given my honest opinion.

Ann-Maree Howarth says

Shanna Hatfield has captured our hearts again with this very sweet and lovely story of love and hope. How she makes you feel with her words and characters in every book she writes is still a wonder to me as I do read a lot of books each week but hers have a small place in my feel-good heart? This is book two of this lovely twelve-book series of the 12 Days of Christmas Mail-Order Brides in which each book is released each day from the start on December 1st. I love the idea of this series and even though I was given this ARC copy of this book that I am voluntary and honestly reviewing, I will be taking a further look at the other books in this wonderful series.

Read my full review at www.readingforthe loveofbooks and subscribe to join in the fun.

Kathy Heare Watts says

THEY BOTH HAD ENDURED HARDSHIPS AND TRIALS, PAIN AND HORRORS

The town of Noelle, Colorado is made up mostly of men and need improvements, as in women to become brides. To help make the town seem more stable, family-friendly, and hopefully gain the railroad so that this mostly mining town doesn't become a ghost town. They are on a deadline, and now twelve brides are coming, with straws drawn by the men to marry. While this is the premise of the story, each story in this series will read as a stand-alone story, and intertwine with the other stories in the series.

Culver Daniels is the blacksmith and also runs the livery in the town of Noelle. After the war, he decided he would never marry, and learned to live a peaceful, but solitary life. But in the interest of helping the entire town, agreed to participate in the bride lottery, and came up one of the winners. Now he is preparing to meet his intended, Miss Kezia Mirga.

Kezia Mirga knows that she is limited to what she will be able to do since she has been widowed, and learns of the brides to go to Noelle to help the town. While she corresponds once with Mr. Daniels, she is vague what she tells him. She has many secrets and fears rejection, but she must take a chance. What will happen when Culver learns the truth of her past?

The plot will have the brides arriving in Noelle on Christmas Eve and introductions are brief at best. But from the moment that Culver sees Kezia and she him, there is an attraction. While neither expects a love match, they each have the reasons for marriage, him to help the town, and she needs a stable home.

I love the interaction of Culver and Kezia even though at times I was groaning at their awkwardness and mishandling of their situation. Will Kezia's secrets and past haunt her so deeply that she can never trust another man and give her a happy future? Will Culver's doubts jeopardize his chance with Kezia, or will she see past his blunders and discover that he has a heart of gold?

"That's all in the past and where it will stay. What I'm interested in are today and the future."

The story is a great example of how important honest and open discussions can make a difference. Also, sometimes observing someone in secret will tell much more about their true character, as Kezia will see watching Culver. Kezie will see that the gentle giant of a man is more than just a solution to her situation, he is the key to her happily-ever-after ending.

Marsha Spohn says

Reviewed at Historically Romantic

Culver and Kezia's story was so touching that it hit all the right spots for that feel good, want more type of romance. Although Culver and Zee had one letter each before they met in person there's only so much a letter can really say. Zee has lived a very difficult, hard life and only recently actually became free of her tormentor and able to look forward to a new life. Her whole world was wrapped up in one tiny little girl, and nothing or no man would ever harm her daughter as she herself had been harmed. So she took a chance and

didn't tel Culver about her daughter in that one letter – now that they're finally face to face it's time for some truths – and unfortunately in his surprise Culver acted badly. It's hard to fault him really, he was totally taken by surprise and his words weren't horrifically terrible but harsh nonetheless. Then Culver does one of the nicest, sweetest things I've ever read and totally captured both my and Zee's heart once again.

I really liked this couple both individually and together. They came alive on the page, their personalities and growing affection for each other plain to see. There is a little bit of conflict, but nothing that two people who are discovering a bond cannot handle if faced honestly and together. We get a few more glimpses of some of the other brides and grooms, some townfolk and a better feel for the layout of this tiny mining town. It's coming alive for me and I love when I start to get that feeling of knowing the town, the community – it only brings me deeper into the series. I completely enjoyed my time with *The Dove – The Second Day* and would recommend this story and the series to any reader who enjoys good, solid writing, interesting characters and a plot that just keeps getting better.

I read this title through my Kindle Unlimited subscription.

jane pearson says

The 12 Days of Christmas Mail-Order Brides

Another lovely story in the 12Days of Christmas series, A gypsy woman recently widowed with a baby treated so badly from the men in her life. Kezia's first and foremost priority is her baby girl Jemimah (which also means dove). Blacksmith Culver Daniels a giant of a man who finds Kezia mysterious intriguing and beautiful as soon as he sets eyes on her. Their relationship gets off to a rocky start Kezia or Zee for short is trying to find a new life suited to her and her baby girl not without problems either in this story the author brings two lonely people and a baby together as a family.

Stephanie Jenkins Ortiz Cerrillo says

The pastor of Noelle, Colorado comes up with a scheme to make Noelle, Colorado a family town. He needs to lure the railroad to Noelle so the Colorado town won't become a ghost town. His plan is to bring in a group of brides to marry the local men so families can begin. Several men reluctantly agree and there is an urgency for the pastor to get the men married. Can the pastor pull this off or will the men or brides back out of their contracts.

Culver Daniels, the local blacksmith and livery owner is one of the men that agrees to marry. He had not planned on ever marrying, he likes his peaceful, orderly life just the way it is. He didn't expect his bride to be such an exotic beauty with a big secret. He's quite taken with his chosen bride but could she adjust to his lifestyle and chose to marry him and stay in the remote town of Noelle.

Widow Kezia Mirga has agreed to make the move to Noelle, Colorado and be one of the mail-order brides the pastor is seeking. Zee as she's called, does not trust men. She's only known mean and nasty men and is afraid there are not any nice men in this world. Can she trust the handsome man that is her chosen. She has a huge secret she has kept from Culver Daniels in her correspondence with him. Will her most most prized possession and secret keep Culver from agreeing to marry her.

This book is a beautiful love story about taking risks on finding true love and companionship in a rural

mining town out west at Christmas time.

Glenda Kinard says

Oh what a sweet sweet story I truly loved it!!! This is my first book by Shanna Hatfield but it definitely will not be my last. How so much emotion was packed into this short story is nothing short of amazing and shows just what a talent writer the author is. This story left me with the feeling of being wrapped in a warm homemade quilt on a cold crisp night while sitting by a fireplace. It just made me say awwwwww when I finished. Culver , Kezia and Jemimah certainly wove their way into my heart. Highly recommend this book to anyone needing a little sweetness in their life

Millie says

The Dove: The Second day (The 12 Days of Christmas - Mail Order Bride) by Shanna Hatfield had me from the very first page. This emotional story of Culver Daniel and Kezia Misga is heartwarming, charming and sweet. The raw emotion, pain and heartbreak that you feel when Kezia tells Culver of her lifeless childhood with a drunk for a father, one who blames her for the fact that her Mother died in child birth. When she tells of veins sold to a abusive man who beat her so bad on their wedding night that she couldn't stand up. You would expect her to be bitter and yet she not. She is a warm, loving Mother to her daughter, Jemimah. Her little "Dove." She decided to become a mail order bride to give her daughter a better life. Even after all ahe has been through she is strong and brave and firm that she will not allowed another man to abuse her. Culver didn't have a clue what his mail order bride was going to be like, but never in his wildest dreams did he expect anything like Kezia. Full of life, colorful, beautiful and she comes with a bonus, one the certainly knocks Culver for a loop. The Dove is everything you want in a Christmas Romance. You will not be able to help falling in love with this heartwarming story.
