



## The Vigilante's Bride

*Yvonne Harris*

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Robbing a stagecoach on Christmas Eve and kidnapping a woman passenger is the last thing Luke Sullivan expects to do. He just wanted to reclaim the money stolen from him, but ends up with a feisty copper-haired orphan thrown over his shoulder who was on her way to marry Sullivan's bitter enemy.

Emily McCarthy is an orphan out of options. Forced to marry because she was too old for her orphanage, she doesn't take kindly to her "rescue." Still she trusts God can turn any situation to good especially when it seems Sullivan may just be the man of her dreams. But Sullivan's crossed a dangerous man unused to losing and Emily may just be the prize he's unwilling to sacrifice.

## **The Vigilante's Bride Details**

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Author : Yvonne Harris

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## From Reader Review The Vigilante's Bride for online ebook

### Jessica says

I've been having a cowboy/western binge lately so it's no surprise that "The Vigilante's Bride" ended up getting thrown into the mix since I already owned a copy of it. I got this book free on kindle a while ago and am finally getting around to reading it.

You start out the book with a mail-order bride and a stage coach robbery. Needless to say it's jam packed with action. I liked Emily's character from page one. Red-heads with matching tempers are always fun to read about, even if they are somewhat of a stereotype. Luke, the male lead, was equally as captivating as Emily and when I found out more about them, I couldn't stop turning the pages. Right off the bat, you can see the chemistry and you know the rest of the book is going to be full of adventure and sarcasm which are always two of the main qualities that draw me into a story. There is nothing like a bit of wit between a cowboy and a red-head to make you smile.

The only complaint I had was one little hiccup near the end of the book. For one teeny paragraph, you switch perspectives to Luke's horse, Bugle. Bugle's perspective wasn't used at all during the rest of the book, (that I can recall) so it felt completely out of place. It was so lame and dumb and you didn't really gain any new information from it. I felt it detracted from the story.

I also felt like things were left a bit unresolved at the end. It's obvious by the last chapter that things will continue to progress between Luke and Emily. The one thing that bugged me was that we never were told what happened to the bad guy's, Axel especially. We know some men were jailed and we are told that the sheriff is going to take care of things with the government. But we never learn what actually ended up being decided about all the land that belonged to New Hope and The Crow. We only are told that it's basically being sorted. I kept reading, expecting there to be a small prologue telling us more, but there was nothing. I was a bit disappointed at not seeing the story fully resolved.

Aside from that, the book was a fun read. Nothing too serious or preachy. It was a light, fun read for a slow, sunny day.

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### Bethany says

Right so I started the book but then had to return it to the library. Didn't really fight this as I wasn't really invested in the story yet. However I may or may not pick up the story again. It totally depends on if I read the reviews and if they're good or not.

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### Kimberly says

There are two reasons why I finished this book:

1. My local library has an adult summer reading program and I can fill out an entry form for prize drawings for each book I read. While I understand that some library patrons may be less than honest when it comes to filling out entry forms for books they may or may not have finished reading, I am adamant that if I'm going to fill out an entry form for a book, I've actually finished reading the entire book.

2. I wanted to write a one-star review for this piece of rubbish. So, just to warn you, this lengthy review of *The Vigilante's Bride* is highly uncomplimentary.

This book was so hilariously stupid and ridiculous. I almost love how much I hated it because I secretly relish writing reviews for bad books (not so secret now that I've just typed that sentence for you all to read). When I was reading this book, there were actually points at which I started laughing because I couldn't take the melodrama anymore.

First off, let me quickly run through some of the plot points:

- A mail-order bride!
- Orphans!
- Vigilante hangings!
- A stagecoach robbery with an abduction!
- Grizzly bears!
- Cattle rustling!
- Land border disputes!
- Saloon shoot-outs!
- Ladies of the night!
- Barn fires!
- Scuffles with randy ranch hands!
- Dinosaur egg hunts!
- Noble savages!

Yes, this book really does include just about every Western cliché for which one could hope. Every time another stereotypical Western plot device was introduced, this book descended a little farther into the absurd. The best part (and by best I really mean worst in regards to standards of human dignity, let alone literary standards) was at the end when we get to spend the last forty pages of the book with some members of the local Crow Indian tribe. I was highly offended by Ms. Harris's physical and behavioral descriptions of the Crow. They were presented as very cartoonish and one-dimensional. Although, to be fair, all of the characters, white or native, were depicted in such a fashion. But, to give some examples of Ms. Harris's writing, here's an excerpt from page 260: "Crows were handsome people, tall and fine-featured, with narrow non-Indian noses." What am I to assume from this description? That other Native Americans have "Indian" noses (à la Chief Wahoo)? That other Native Americans aren't handsome people? That there are no ugly Crow people? That there are no short Crow people? That the Crow tribe was the only Native American tribe of any worth? What a statement! Ms. Harris also used such colorful adjectives as "copper-faced" (p. 259), "cinnamon-skinned" (p. 263), "red-skinned" (p. 268), and "redmen" (throughout) needlessly when writing about the members of the tribe.

There's also this incomprehensible sentence when Luke enters the Crow village: "Luke's mouth went dry, remembering what he'd heard Indian women did to white male captives." (p. 263). What do Indian women do to white male captives? I don't get it. For real, what do they do? Was anyone else stumped by this?

Something else that comes across as racist is when Ms. Harris wrote that the characters were speaking to each other in the Crow language, but she wrote them as speaking in broken Crow. I understand writing a Crow character's English speech in imperfect English, since English would not be that character's native language. But if two Crow people were speaking their own native Crow language, I wouldn't expect it to be laughably ungrammatical.

One last comment on race in this book: when Emily is traveling by train out to Montana, Ms. Harris includes the phrase "A white-jacketed Negro" (p. 13). She's talking about a man serving refreshments to the passengers but the use of the word "Negro" was pretty jarring. I understand that the story is set in 1884, but

this isn't "Huck Finn." This is the one and only time the word "Negro" appears in the book, and again, like the unnecessary adjectives to describe the color of the Crow people's skin, using the word "Negro" just seems so inappropriate.

Setting issues of race aside, let me know turn my attention to the issues I had with the main characters, Luke and Emily. They were just so annoying. They hate each other, then they love each other, then they're back to hating each other, no wait, they love each other, etc. Some of their interactions were so awkwardly bizarre. Like, how about those back rubs Emily gives to a half-naked Luke? And I almost vomited when Emily was studying the cleft in Luke's chin, imagining "her fingernail tracing the tiny trench, probing it, even kissing it." (p. 147). Gag!!

Really, I could say more about how horrible this book was, but I've already said plenty.

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### **Melissa says**

The title is very deceiving. It should be The Vigilante. The story is about him not her, she is a side story, This book is about an orphan boy who is trying to live a good life but has some trouble with wanting revenge on the guy who took so much from his family. It's not a mail order bride or really a romance it's just a simple story about this cowboy. I almost didn't finish it, it was very predictable and didn't draw me in. I liked there fighting when he was sick more then anything else about the story. It is clean with religious themes thrown in here and there.

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### **Margaret Chind says**

I love this book, as in love love love this book. The Vigilante's Bride is my first experience with author Yvonne Harris and you better believe it will not be my last. The romance in verbiage and actions is palpable and beautiful. If you know any of my taste in books, you know that I love Mary Connealy and Tracie Peterson and even though Yvonne's book is slightly shorter, she's right up there in my favoritism. I can hardly put the book down, and then when I think I've only been reading for a short time, I'm shocked that another hundred pages have gone by.

Bethany House has a winner with this author and I cannot wait for more. The bad guys are real and evil. I'm tense with anxiety and delight. Chill bumps greet me with the since of new found love and the hope for a future and better opportunities for all is heart warming. It makes my heart smile.

\*Thanks to Bethany House for providing a copy for review through the Christian Fiction Blog Alliance.\*

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### **Vicki says**

Luke Sullivan is heading home but first he must rob the stage because the man that cheated his father in poker and stole their land and everything else had his banker on the stage with money. Emily McCarthy was on the stage too and she was to be the mail-order bride to Bart Axel the man Luke was stealing from. Luke stole \$1000.00 from the banker and when he found out Emily was to marry Axel a man old enough to be her grandfather he took her too. There are a lot of twists and turns humor and murder. Luke was an orphan and so was Emily so they have that in common but not much else.

I liked this author and will read more of her books.

I liked this book a lot.

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## Erin says

Find this and other reviews at:

I really need to stop downloading kindle freebies. I'm sure there are good ones out there, but I never seem to snag them. Case and point, *The Vigilante's Bride* by Yvonne Harris, a cliché inspirational romance that left me both irritated and bored.

Orphans, saloon brawls, stage coach robberies, dinosaur eggs, it's all here. Every trivial platitude of western literature, packed together in a single volume. Harris' depictions of the Crow and their native land were equally disappointing. The author's descriptions didn't do justice to either and I felt the image she presented unrealistically thin and offensively stereotypical.

Speaking of imagery... "He had a nice square jaw and was certainly attractive for a gunfighter. Well, not really a gunfighter, but almost. And despite who he was and what he did, his chin was downright cute, with a Y-shaped cleft so deep it folded in on itself." It folded in on itself? Really? What does that mean and why doesn't it sound attractive?

Axel never developed into a despicable antagonist, I felt there was too much going on and I didn't feel an ounce of chemistry between Luke and Emily. Bottom line, this is not a title that will remain in my library and not something I see myself recommending down the road.

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## Brittany says

This was a fairly predictable, yet enjoyable book. It kept my interest till the end and I was able to read it quickly. I enjoyed the romance between the two main characters and there were some fairly tense and dangerous situations that they experienced.

Luke and Emily's relationship was fun to watch develop. They were both rather strong personality types and had some clashing going on throughout a portion of the story. I will say that the ending felt a little abrupt to me, however, it was a satisfactory ending.

If you are a fan of western romances with some danger thrown in, this might be a book you would enjoy.

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## joy \*the clean-reader extraordinaire\* says

\*2.5 stars\*

LIKES: the gorgeous cover, the fast-moving plot, the characters themselves, the indians, the western setting

DISLIKES: the unrealistic and irritating conflicts between the romantic leads -- why are they constantly angry with each other? no real reason or validity is given to their temper tantrums; several scenes are simply

left unresolved/unfinished; also, the plot could've used more fleshing out

not nearly as satisfactory as similar books of the same genre, but it's worth a day's read if you like western historical christian romance... whew!

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### **Janelle says**

For this book to get four stars from me is quite an achievement as I'm a rather fussy reader. I don't like westerns and I don't like a lot of Christian fiction (though I read a lot of it in the past), particularly Christian fiction set during America's long history. It's not that I don't like historical fiction or America or Christianity in fiction. It's just that so much of it looks the same, as though the authors are just pasting in characters and settings. The only reason I own this book at all is because my husband gets a thrill out of finding free/cheap ebooks for me to read. (That's also the reason I have over 1000 books on my to read shelf.)

But I digress. Despite the MCs being a bit stereotypical, and all the aforementioned factors, I really enjoyed this book. The author writes with smoothness and clarity, I liked the characters and I loved the strong sense of humour throughout the book.

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### **Brenda says**

This book takes place Dec 1884 in Chicago Ill. we are introduced to Emily McCarthy, an 18 yr old girl who has lived in the Aldersgate Home for Girls most of her life, she had been working as a teacher but was suddenly informed by the director that she has been promised to Bartholomew Axel as his new bride. He had advertised in the paper and an arrangement had been made between him and the school that Emily would travel to Repton Montana to become his wife. Emily can't imagine doing such a thing but she really has no other options. Within miles of reaching her destination the stagecoach is robbed, well sort of, the robber only took a small amount of the money on board, and he also takes Emily.

Our first glimpse of Luke Sullivan is of him being part of a vigilante gang that is hanging a man for stealing, the man about to be hanged gives Luke a piece of information that confirms that Mr. Axel had cheated his father out of the family farm and in Luke's mind ultimately cost him his family, so he decides to quit his job and head back home, his home was an orphanage as well called New Hope, and upon overhearing that Mr. Axel's fiance along with his money will be traveling by stagecoach, he decides to extract a little revenge. When he kidnaps Emily and takes her to New Hope with him, she isn't sure whether she should be afraid of him or thank him.

This was a perfectly written historical cowboy fiction. It had a bit of everything Indians and cowboys, a rotten bad guy, cows and cattle rustlers, horses, and alot of action. I really enjoyed how we could read the story from both perspectives, Luke's as well as Emily's. The friction between them early on made for some funny moments. The underlying christian theme was very refreshing, it wasn't overdone but it was there.

A very fast paced book that is not your typical inspirational read, I highly recommend this book to anyone looking for an entertaining read with a splash of humor thrown in.

5/5

I was provided a copy of this book by Bethany House in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Donna G says**

fast paced

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## **Christy says**

I usually love mail-order bride stories, and I even like an occasional western, but the combination of both in this book just did not do it for me. I'm not sure where it started to go wrong, but overall, the story did not flow well.

I came into the story expecting Emily's point of view. After all, the story is called "The Vigilante's Bride," emphasis on bride. She came out west as a mail-order bride to this foul man, which she, thankfully, did not have to marry. Once she was released of her marital obligations, the story switched to Luke's point of view. He's the vigilante of the story, and that's really where I lost interest. There seemed to be too much focus on the unrest between the New Hope ranch where Luke and Emily were living, and the ranch owned by Bart Axel, the man Emily came out west to marry. Also, there was little to no romance, and hardly any character development, particularly for Emily.

If you're looking for a story about a mail-order bride, then let me suggest Lori Copeland or Amanda Cabot. As for western stories, I highly recommend Mary Connealy. All of these authors weave excellent stories that will hold your interest...I guarantee it. My rating for The Vigilante's Bride is 2 Stars.

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## **Rina says**

This book has been on my to-read list for a while and last week I finally read it. It's a quick read with a fun twist on the mail-order bride plot and a good reminder that not all mail-order brides had a good man waiting for them.

The adventure surrounding the ranch was an exciting side story and the interaction between Emily and Luke was fun to read. They, but especially Luke had some harrowing experiences and the author did a great job bringing them together during those times.

The ending was a bit strange with it's focus on the sheriff but perhaps the next book in the series is about him.

If you enjoy adventure and danger mixed in with your cowboy/western romance than this is a book you should take a peak at.

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## **Elaine says**

Title: The Vigilante's Bride.

Author: Yvonne Harris.

Genre: Christian, Fiction, Western, Romance, Drama, Action/Adventure.

Plot: Eighteen year old Emily McCarthy reluctantly agrees to leave the only home she's ever known and answer a mail order bride notice, traveling all the way from Chicago to Montana on a train in December of 1884. On the first day of her arrival, while she is on her way to meet her intended husband, the stagecoach she is riding in gets held up and Emily McCarthy is kidnapped by Luke Sullivan. From the moment he swoops her off her feet that dark Christmas Eve night, Emily finds herself on an adventure she never expected. Taken by her mysterious captor to New Hope, an orphanage where Sullivan grew up, Emily befriends Molly who runs the place, and engages in frequent sparring matches with Sullivan. She finally settles in however and takes up teaching the twenty-four lively orphans and two Crow Indian boys, the sons of chief Black Otter.

Sullivan, for his part, never intended that night to kidnap Emily. All he wanted to do was take back the money Bart Axel, Emily's intended husband, stole from his father years ago. When he learned who Emily was heading off to marry, he knew he had to talk some sense into the naïve girl before she got herself into trouble. What Sullivan and the locals all know but the folks in Chicago don't is that Axel is a villain. A former vigilante and trail boss, Sullivan busies himself with New Hope's dwindling herd while forcing himself not to ride over and shoot Axel himself when things start going wrong; beginning with a severe beating that nearly ends the twenty-six-year-old's life.

On top of the usual hardships of winter, the continual dwindling of the herd and brewing trouble with Axel, Sullivan and Emily find themselves falling in love. Their troubles, however, aren't over yet.

Likes/Dislikes: I have to be honest with you: I loved this book!! I've wanted to read it for months now and you can just imagine how excited I was when my Dad brought it home from the post office. Emily and Sullivan's sparring with each other was hilarious; his sense of humor is very good and she reminds me a little of myself. Molly, Black Otter, Stuart and the other primary supporting characters are all well drawn and provided plenty of laughs as they teased Sullivan and Emily or worked together to outwit the bad guy. And this western has everything in it that a lover of classic westerns could want except for the final showdown between the hero and the villain {Axel is a really clever villain too}; I really wanted a final showdown! However, I don't suppose Sullivan would have been able to participate with a wounded arm. There is some violence, obviously, but it's not graphic and there are also only a few kisses, nothing graphic there either.

Rating: PG-15 and up for violence and reading level. Highly recommended!

Date Report Written: June 11, 2011.

I received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions expressed in the above review are my own.

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