



# The Gunsmith's Gallantry

*Susan Page Davis*

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## **The Gunsmith's Gallantry** Susan Page Davis

Can the shy gunsmith and the widowed storekeeper find love when everything around them is in an uproar? Hiram Dooley has problems—*women* problems! His sister's about to leave him to get married (if Sheriff Ethan Chapman ever proposes); his sister-in-law, Rose, thinks Hiram should marry her, since they're both widowed; and the woman he truly loves, Libby Adams, is blind to his regard. The schoolmarm has a different problem—a man claiming to be her uncle came to Fergus. . .and then disappeared. Did her father kill him? Can the Ladies' Shooting Club once again ride to the rescue?

## **The Gunsmith's Gallantry Details**

Date : Published June 1st 2010 by Barbour Books (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9781602607958

Author : Susan Page Davis

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical, Christian Fiction, Historical Fiction, Westerns, Christian

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## From Reader Review The Gunsmith's Gallantry for online ebook

### Barbara says

I received this book as a Goodreads giveaway. I wish it had been more clear that this was a "Christian Romance." I enjoyed the book, but all of the discussions about religion really pulled me out of the story. I would expect people living in the old west to make religion a part of their lives, but I don't care to read about it. I did finish the book because I wanted to know what happened with the characters, so Ms. Davis did her job as far as having characters the reader is interested in, and writing a good story. It was a bit sticky sweet for my taste, all the main characters were just so nice and polite and good to each other, but I would certainly recommend it for readers that enjoy that sort of story. In my opinion there was nothing that a parent would object to for a young reader as well, the romance didn't go beyond a kiss or two and there was a small amount of violence.

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### Christy says

Once again, I loved visiting this little town of Fergus, Idaho. It's a little place where everybody knows everybody, and they all want to see each other succeed. Of course, there's a few ruffians and troublemakers, but between the town sheriff and the Ladies Shooting Club, they don't stay around for long!

If you haven't read book one in this series, I highly suggest that you start there first. The Sheriff's Surrender is a good introduction to the whole town and its citizens, and it's got a good mystery to go along with it. The Gunsmith's Gallantry was a little different. It dealt more with getting to know the characters more which I really appreciated. The only thing I would've liked more of was Hiram! Bless his heart, he's the most soft-spoken character I've ever come across in any book, much less in real life, and it's almost unnatural to me for someone to speak so little. Oh well, guess that's what gives him his charm. :o)

I also liked reading more about Isabel and her father, Cy. While I didn't really care for either of them in book one (Cy still wasn't a favorite of mine in book 2), I genuinely cared about Isabel's future in this book. I can't wait to see if things will turn out like I'm expecting them to between her and a certain gentleman in book 3.

All in all, if you like a good western story that's got a good dose of something from almost every genre, then you can't go wrong with the Ladies Shooting Club series. I'm so glad that I only have to wait until November to read book 3, The Blacksmith's Bravery!

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### Rebecca says

Hiram Dooley is a private man, living his life as the local gunsmith; contributing honorably to the Fergus, Idaho community as he continues to grieve over the deaths of his wife and newborn child. He scarcely utters a word, but his growing friendship with the lovely owner of the town's emporium begins to revive his reticent heart and Hiram finds that exploring a new future is not nearly as difficult as he once imagined.

Libby Adams has a soft spot in her heart for Hiram Dooley, the kind brother of her best friend, Trudy. When a young woman is kidnapped and ransomed, the entire town rallies to save her, but it's the skill of one seasoned sharpshooter that quietly saves the lives of its citizens. It's just one, of the many qualities, that Libby admires in Hiram. Could she possibly love again?

Enjoy this continuing tale of life on the western frontier, in a small town that experiences its share of love, loss and gallantry!

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### **Connie S. Koog says**

#### **The. Humanity's Lady!**

This is why everyone that wants to should be able to protect them selves. I love reading about women who refuse to be victims.

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### **Carolyn Tye says**

Cute story

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### **Werner says**

Barb and I finished our reading of Davis' Ladies Shooting Club trilogy with this book, having started it with the third book (long story!). I'd recommend reading the books in order, so as to learn some plot developments in the sequence that the author intended; but having read the third book out of order didn't really impair our enjoyment, and actually gave us an at times enjoyable "inside" perspective. :-) Davis brings her imaginary small frontier community of Fergus, Idaho to very realistic, vivid life; by the time we've followed a couple of years of their lives through all three books, we've gotten to know a number of the townspeople, most of whom we like and care about, so that the read is, as Barb said, "like spending time with old friends." (The main characters in this novel are also characters in the other two, and vice versa, and a number of other townsfolk play roles or are referred to in all three books as well.) This effect is one I haven't often experienced in books; it requires the extended immersion that can only be achieved with a series, but it also requires a deft hand at winsome characterization and skillful, involving storytelling on the author's part. (And Davis delivers.)

Most of my general comments about the other books would apply to this one as well; the author's style is very consistent. There is perhaps more traditional Western-style gun-play here than in the other two novels, but it clusters in small parts of the text overall, and the main stress of the book is on the exploration of human relationships --not necessarily romantic ones, but family relationships and both male and female friendship as well-- the unraveling of a mystery to which we're introduced in the first chapter, but which involves secrets that will take quite awhile to bring fully to light, and the everyday life of the community. (For instance, the rifle-shooting contest at the box social is worth the price of admission --and yes, some of the members of the Ladies Shooting Club will be competing.) Although I've classified this as a Western series, I'll repeat my comment from another review, to the effect that this is more like realistic historical fiction set in 1880s Idaho than it is like the typical "Western" paperbacks marketed as such by the book trade. For instance, it's less violent --though the body count is higher here than in the first and third books-- and we're not usually hanging out in venues like saloons, jails, or cattle drives.

As usual for this series, the Christian content of the book is simple, relatively low-key, and mainly grows naturally out of the faith of the Christian characters. (There's a discussion of Christian conversion between a saloon owner and the preacher's wife, with a quotation of a couple of Bible verses; it occupies two pages of a

317-page book.) Nonreligious readers who don't have a violent animus against religious belief and believers, IMO, could read the book (and the series) without feeling stigmatized or preached at. "Romance" is a marketing label that I could see being applied to all three books; and it's a fact that this book will feature two weddings (I'm not going to tell you whose!) and shows us at least one couple discovering feelings for each other. But this isn't the be-all and end-all of everything and doesn't swallow the plot completely; it's treated as just one natural and wholesome part of life. Davis also depicts this aspect with restraint; some hugs and kisses might be exchanged, but the reader can feel the sweetness of the attraction between the couples without it becoming cloying and nauseating. Women readers will enjoy the book (my wife did); but, with main characters of both genders, I think it could also appeal just as much to males.

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## Giselle says

I won this book through goodreads first-reads!

Although westerns aren't my usual cup of tea, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Davis sets her scenes without the reader even noticing--no long, drawn-out descriptions; you're just very much there in the moment. I realized halfway through the book that my mental picture of this town was as vivid as if I were watching it on film. And I can say the same about the lead characters. Davis seems to draw the reader to her hero and heroine effortlessly. Don't be fooled, though--that's the mark of a talented writer. She also knows how to write a tight little mystery, allowing her cast of characters to play devil's advocate all the way through. If a question comes to mind while you read, you can be sure it will be addressed by someone at some point in the story. Not a loose thread in sight.

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## Nicki Olsen says

The Gunsmith's Gallantry

\*Book Description\*

Hiram-Hi-Dooley has lived with his sister Trudy for the past ten years...ever since his beloved wife Violet and son died and left him alone. He's hardly spoken a word since then. Now after all these years an unexpected, and unwanted, visitor shows up on their door right after her telegram arrives and there's no chance for escape for Hi and Trudy. When a short visit turns into a summer stay, Hi feels he's at his wit's end. Will he ever get rid of the girl? To make matters worse, Hi thinks the woman he loves is just starting to notice him...the problem is, now that she is, he doesn't know what to say! Will he ever speak normally again and get his life on track? Or is he destined to be known as 'Hiram Dooley, the silent gunsmith'?

The whole town thinks Hiram Dooley's quiet ways and few words makes him different but Libby Adams finds it relaxing with his gentle, silent ways. When Hi does start to speak, Libby is just about shocked into silence herself! Then a friend visits with worries about her father and Libby starts to worry as well. Will the town's mysteries ever be solved? And when sneaky visitors come to town could the Ladies Shooting Club get more than they bargained for? Then there's the gunsmith...

\*What I liked\*

First, I loved the name Hi. I don't know why but I have a fondness for nicknames, especially male nicknames and Hi did it for me. I also loved his quiet bashful ways even though he still had the ability to knock someone down if needed. All the characters were wonderful as in the first book and the plot was incredible! I never expected anything that happened and when a book does that...well just see the rating!

\*What I didn't like\*

Once again, Susan had an awesome ending but I wasn't satisfied so book three for me!

\*My Rating\*

My rating for The Gunsmith's Gallantry is... 4 1/2 stars!!

\*My overall opinion\*

My overall opinion on The Gunsmith's Gallantry is that it is a wonderful western,mystery, romance with so much fun, suspense, and spunk, you'll be buying the next book within minutes!

<http://bookreviewsforchristianmenandw...>

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### **Aubry says**

Another fun book. I like books that make me laugh at and with the chacters as well as want to yell at some and sy "what is your problem." I liked how Jiram started talking more in this one. He was more of a central chacter but there also seemed to be a need for him to open up a little bit more. I didn't really think that the love story between Hiram and Libby was explained very well. It was like that the start of that should have been put in the first book but instead we are just plopped right into it at the beggining of the second book. However, I was glad that the where both able to admit their feelings at the end. I think she did a good job developing Isabel Fennels character and I ended up liking her by the end of this book. Loved how several of the "shooting club" women out shot the men in the shooting contest. Very enjoyable.

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### **Nina Gayle says**

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

The Gunsmith's Gallantry is the second book in the series, The Ladies' Shooting Club. Although I have not read the first book in this series, I had no trouble following the plot of this sequel.

In this story, there are several characters looking for romance. Trudy Dooley and Sheriff Ethan Chapman are courting, but he is reluctant to propose. Trudy's brother, Hiram likes Libba, the storekeeper, but wonders if such a beautiful woman could possibly care for him. His sister-in-law, Rose Caplinger, comes to town hoping to make a match with Hiram, and when that fails, pursues several other eligible men. Isabel Fennel is the plain schoolteacher who fears that she is doomed to be an old maid.

Isabel is also troubled by her father's disturbing actions after the mysterious appearance of a previously unknown uncle with a criminal background.

The ladies are all praying for Bitsy Shepherd, the saloon keeper, to be converted to Christianity.

The ladies of this story seem too liberated for their time. While the characters are likable, they are not fully developed. The story is pleasant, but lacks suspense. Overall, this is a light and entertaining tale.

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### **Sandra Swartz says**

It was okay. Much like the first one, only a little better. We will see what book three holds.

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### **Casey says**

I really enjoyed this book, much better than its predecessor. THE GUNSMITH'S GALLANTRY was a captivating story and I loved delving into the characters.

For those that have read the first book, they will recognize the characters in the second, though it isn't necessary to read the books in order. I loved reading more about quiet Hiram and the romance between him and the storekeeper, Libby. There is defiantly more romance in this book, though not edgy, it was sweet and fulfilling to see the happy endings I had been longing for.

There was intrigue and even some sorrow as the book progressed. Characters that didn't play a huge role in the first, were given a spotlight in the second and I liked seeing them grow. The story was well written to include every character without being confusing.

But above all else, I really liked seeing Hiram's side of the story. His quiet nature is endearing, but he plays a strong role.

Altogether, I really enjoyed this book. The characters were well written and endearing and I am excited for the third book in the series, where we get to know more about the blacksmith of the town and his coming woes!

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### **Judith Rogow says**

This western mystery has all the ingredients, from store keepers and saloon girls to a timid teacher, a mysterious stranger, a land-grabbing rancher and a strapping sheriff.

What it does not have is swearing, piles of bodies or graphic sex, which makes it a refreshing read.

While I wish I had read the first book in the series, the tales stand on their own. A third edition will hit the shelves in November.

Aside from the mystery (which I will not spoil for future readers), there are a couple of sweet romances and well drawn local characters.

The heroes are true to life, the Ladies Shooting Club members spunky, yet wise, and the town comes alive in the reader's mind.

I wholeheartedly recommend this story.

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### **Dawn says**

I enjoyed reading this book. It had a "Little House on the Prairie" feel to it. Wholesome people, simple times, with some intrigue. The book was easy to put down and just as easy to pick up again (with a house full of kids, these are 5 star qualities for me). For the avid reader I can see how one might find the story a bit slow, but it was right up my alley. The story was a nice "get-a-way". One thing that did bother me was that some characters didn't stay true to their personalities but it wasn't significant enough to ruin the plot. Because it had no bad language or adult situations, I can see my grade school daughter loving this book as well.

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### **Renee says**

If sweet romance is your thing I highly recommend author Susan Page Davis. The Gunsmith's Gallantry is a western romance that will be certain to please fans of the genre. The feisty women of the Ladies Shooting Club are at it again, this time trying to help new sheriff Ethan and fellow club member Isabel Fennel find out what's behind the sudden trouble Isabel's father, Cyrus is facing. Along with the problem of the meddling widow, Rose Caplinger and trying to raise money to keep the new doctor in town, the Ladies have a lot on their plate.

The result is a fine story with humor and drama. You'll be surprised when more words come out of Hiram Dooley's mouth in the first chapter than the entire length of book 1, The Sheriff's Surrender! If you haven't read The Sheriff's Surrender you're probably wondering why I'm making a fuss, but if you have, I'm sure you will know what I mean!

While there's a little more romance in this book than the first, I think it was a little more dramatic and a bit of a nail biter. Of course it ends with a "happily ever after" but I'm sure there are bound to be some surprises in store for Ethan, Trudy, Hiram and the ladies of the Shooting Club in Book 3, The Blacksmith's Bravery.

Tip: It's best to read this series in order since the story continues with most of the main characters who were featured in book 1.

\*I received my review copy courtesy of Shalyn @ Barbour Books through a Goodreads "First reads" giveaway.\*

