



# Hearts in Defiance

*Heather Blanton*

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## **Hearts in Defiance** Heather Blanton

**MEN MAKE MISTAKES. GOD WILL FORGIVE THEM. WILL THEIR WOMEN?**

Gritty and realistic, this is not a sweet Christian romance. It's life in Defiance.

Charles McIntyre built the lawless, godless mining town of Defiance practically with his bare hands ... and without any remorse for the lives he destroyed along the way. Then a glimpse of true love, both earthly and heavenly, changed him. The question is, how much? Naomi Miller is a beautiful, decent woman. She says she loves McIntyre, that God does, too, and the past is behind them now. But McIntyre struggles to believe he's worth saving ... worth loving. Unfortunately, the temptations in Defiance only reinforce his doubts.

Billy Page abandoned Hannah Frink when he discovered she was going to have his baby ... and now he can't live with himself. Or without her. Determined to prove his love, he leaves his family and fortune behind and journeys to Defiance. Will Hannah take Billy back or give him what he deserves for the betrayal?

~~ The sequel to the highly acclaimed, best-selling western romance *A Lady in Defiance!* ~~

## **Hearts in Defiance Details**

Date : Published September 19th 2014 by Rivulet Publishing

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Author : Heather Blanton

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## From Reader Review Hearts in Defiance for online ebook

### Nancee says

The second book in the Romance in the Rockies series is a continuation of book #1. You'll definitely want to read this series in order since they build upon one another. Back in time to the Old West the bawdy town of Defiance is the sin city of the west, worse than Dodge. Wyatt Earp even makes an appearance.

There are numerous characters, well developed and distinctly different. As three young women run a well respected hotel and attempt changing the scoundrels in Defiance, most characters, and I do mean "characters," aren't interested in the Christian way of life. This is a town of brothels, gamblers, drunks, prostitutes and lawlessness, and the residents like it that way.

There is no end to adversity or complications throughout the lives of those who dwell in Defiance. Relationships, suspense and intense drama continue to heighten throughout this book, which I'm sure will continue into book #3.

I had no difficulty sorting out characters in this novel because they were so well developed in book #1. I did, however, find this book was slow moving for me. The plot was well done, but I found it difficult to get as personally involved with this particular part of the series.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from The Book Club Network's For Readers Only program in exchange for my honest review. All expressed opinions are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

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### ? Gramy ? says

This series depicts three sisters that moved to the wild town of Defiance. Rebecca, Naomi, and Hannah, come to the town filled with sweetness, grace, and Christian love. There was a rich character that controlled most of the town and had an unexplainable pull toward one of the sisters. This installment focused on the relationships between the other sisters: Rebecca and Hannah, and their love interests, Rebecca and Ian and Hannah with Emilio and Billy.

It didn't take long before they meet Mr. Charles McIntyre - a wealthy business owner in Defiance, who founded the rowdy mining town. He was satisfied in his role of ruling this devilish community over serving in heaven. This mighty character had an unexplainable pull toward one of the sisters. This installment focused on the sexually magnetic pull between Naomi and Charles, who were involved in a complicated courtship that was often flirtatious and saucy. He encouraged the sister's business venture, opening a hotel, even going so far as to offer his protection.

This installment picks up right where the first one left off. Excitement is in the air as the angelic sisters and their beaux intertwine with the plans they have made. Although Naomi had acknowledged her feelings for Charles in the first book, she experiences some doubts now, based on his lack of faith and his shady business ventures. Now Hannah and Rebecca must also face the challenge of acceptance a man in their own lives.

This was an entertaining historical western, with a nice variety of Christian struggles and resolutions. These books captivate the reader with imperfect characters who questioned their actions and didn't always make the

right choices. They knew there was room for improvement and struggled with their purpose. The compelling storyline shows how each person grows and realizes that love must be nurtured and every minute with the person you love counts.

Each installment is able to stand on its own, although reading them in order provides a much better understanding. Each installment also provides an H.E.A. I would recommend this series to anyone who enjoys these genres.

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## **Rebecca says**

Nothing comes easy in Defiance, Colorado, not even love; especially not love.

When Naomi Miller and her two sisters arrived in the raucous mining town, two were widowed and the other was carrying an unborn child. Now settled comfortably into a respectable restaurant business, the three women have learned life lessons that any normal person would avoid, especially when it comes to giving love a second chance.

The beautiful Naomi has caught the eye of the most notorious womanizer in the state, Charles McIntyre, who continuously struggles to accept that in Christ, he is a new creation. Rebecca, typically content, wrestles with the fact that she might be given another chance to love, her affections growing for her faithful friend and confidante, Ian Brannagh. Hannah, still a teen-ager, is blindsided when the man who abandoned her, and their child, suddenly arrives in Defiance proclaiming his love.

There's more! Add renegade Indians, a conniving brother-in-law and temptations in the form of feminine persuasion, meaning that "Hearts in Defiance" easily earned five stars with its western charm, "fan-your-face" romance and deep spiritual insights into the true meaning of redemption and forgiveness. What a story this book turned out to be!

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## **Linda says**

### **Wonderful book**

Another great book from Ms Blanton. This is the continuation of the book A Lady in Defiance. In this book we find that Hannah, the youngest sister, is concerned with her evolving feelings for Emilio, the young Mexican the sisters have practically adopted. Then we meet Billy Page the father to Hannah's baby, who had run out on her leaving her to face the trials of unwed motherhood. We see the continuation of the romance of Rebecca and Ian and how Naomi is coming to grips with her love for Charles McIntyre. Indians make an appearance and the lives of the people in Defiance are threatened. The change in McIntyre along with the change in those around him and the sisters because of God's word is amazing. What a wonderful story with God in the forefront. I look forward to reading more from Ms Blanton. It's so rare to find interesting stories with Christian values. I highly recommend this book to everyone who loves a good, clean story. It's fantastic.

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## **Noela says**

With the majestic San Juan Mountains of Colorado as a backdrop, this epic tale of confronting and

overcoming evil, guilt, and obstacles towards love - left me thankful for God's eminence in all things!

Striding down the street of the mining town called Defiance that he'd created, the roguishly handsome Charles McIntyre strikes an imposing figure in his black Stetson, holstered gun, and sweeping long-coat. McIntyre, a former pimp and saloon owner, had once ruled his town with harsh frontier justice. And now thanks to a change in heart as a result of McIntyre falling in love with a godly woman and accepting God into his life, Defiance is also changing and is on its way to becoming more respectable and law-abiding. But will it be possible for McIntyre to fully put the past behind him and to be the man that the beautiful and feisty Naomi Miller deserves? Or will the temptations of his carnal nature and a vengeful spirit be too powerful to subdue?

Billy Page left family and fortune and set out to return to Hannah and their son after realizing his life was nothing without them. Desperate to reach Hannah and the baby after learning they're living in the corrupt town of Defiance, Billy moves heaven and earth to get there. Having abandoned Hannah when she was pregnant, he knows she may never trust him again. However he didn't also anticipate competition by the reliable and safe Emilio who was already in Hannah's life. And if two incredible love stories aren't enough, Hannah and Naomi's older sister Rebecca, who had lost both husband and child, discovers love and passion in her life again when she'd all but given up.

Invigorating, passionate, and dramatic, 'Hearts in Defiance' is a compulsive page-turning adventure of love and danger in the old west. Author Heather Blanton has masterfully penned a novel that comprises the horrors of Indian savagery, along with a breathtaking romance that is charged with electrifying chemistry, and glued together with the message that God has made us a new creation and overcomers, no matter our past!

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### **Dorine says**

Good historical western with a nice variety of Christian struggles and resolutions. I liked these imperfect characters who questioned their actions and didn't always make the right choices. They knew there was room for improvement and struggled with their purpose. Full review coming soon.

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### **Joleen says**

I re-read *A Lady in Defiance* in order to pick up where Ms. Blanton left off...which is the story continued here in *Hearts in Defiance*.

I liked the first book, but liked the second book even more. The theme of God's forgiveness, even when your life had been a total mess, is a great one especially for Charles McIntyre.

Prior to coming to Christ, Charles had been a trader in women's bodies, saloon owner, and ruled the most notorious town in the West. He could continue to listen to the lies being internally whispered that he's not worthy, and that his sins were too big, and that he'll end up right back where he started, or he could take in God's truth through His Word which kept coming back to him.

A large part of the New Testament was written by a man whose life's ambition was to kill Christians, until his life was irrevocably changed by his Savior. How bad does a person have to be before God won't forgive

him? There isn't such a standard.

Great message, great plot along with several subplots. Three naive ladies stumbling into a town of incredible evil, affecting many townsfolk as they live their lives exactly as they are meant to.

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### **Diane Estrella says**

Now I get what all the fuss is about!!!

I had previously read book one in this series and thought, hey that was pretty good. The story was solid with lots of well-developed characters to love and it ended in a good spot that left me satisfied and wanting a little more. This second book in the series, left me wanting A LOT more. Talk about leaving readers with a cliffhanger. Just when you think their happy ever after has arrived, one last twist is thrown into the mix. Wooza.

The author definitely improved her technical writing skills in this second book in the Romance in the Rockies series. The story starts out right from the first few chapters with two new major characters that add a ton of new drama to the story-line. Drama in the best possible way.

I get why readers have been anxiously and impatiently awaiting book three in this series, and I myself can also not wait. I think there is nothing and no one off limits that the author will not use to glorify God and bring forth her best story yet. I think I'd better buckle up and giddy yap!

I received a free copy of this book from the author, for my honest review. The opinions expressed here are my own

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### **Joan Arning says**

Hearts in Defiance continues the story of three brave sisters who settle in the lawless town of Defiance. Heather Blanton has done an excellent job with both the main protagonists of former saloon and brothel owner Charles McIntyre who has accepted Christ and is striving to live a godly life and his fiance, Naomi. The secondary characters, the youngest sister Hannah and the father of her child, Billy, show real love. These characters all have many obstacles to overcome for their love to flourish. I enjoyed this historical romance and recommend it to others.

I received my copy of Hearts in Defiance from [www.bookfun.org](http://www.bookfun.org) in exchange for an honest opinion.

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### **Sally says**

I loved Hearts in Defiance. A Lady in Defiance is the first book in the series. You do not need to read it first in order to enjoy this one. Indians, Indian fights, saloons, this book has it all! Like an old fashioned western romance to read? This is it!

Charles McIntyre is cleaning up Defiance whether the Indians like it or not. Think your past will keep you from God? Look at his: a former pimp, saloon owner, and gunman. He will do anything to prove to Naomi

Miller he isn't the man he used to be, that God has made him a new creature in Him. Can she believe him? How about when his past comes calling? Can she trust him to not stray? He is now trying to bring legitimate businesses to Defiance, but how can he fight when someone is trying to set him up?

Hearts in Defiance is about Naomi and her sisters in Defiance falling in love with their men while taming the town. I laughed, cried, and cheered with these characters. I hated to say goodbye when the last page was turned. I am so hoping there is another book!

Naomi's husband John died falling over a cliff. His twin brother Matthew then comes to town thinking he can take Naomi away. What will happen if Naomi doesn't see through his charade and trades Charles for Matthew? Hannah Frink came to Defiance with Naomi when she found out she was pregnant and her boyfriend Billy would not stand with her. He chose his father's fortune over here. Now he shows up in Defiance ready to win her back if she'll have him. Rebecca is nearing forty and afraid to fall in love again. Her husband Ben and daughter Gracie were killed. Is it too late to find another who will make her heart rush and her pulse soar? Or has she found him already in Ian if she'd just open up and let love back in?

Where do these men stand with their women? You'll have to pick up this book to find out. You'll be glad you did. And with it being part of a series, you still can't get enough of them. You'll be wishing for more. Watch as the characters learn how to trust and hope in God, accept God's love for themselves, and come to terms with their past. Charles thinks a lot about Paul who had, after one amazing encounter with Christ, lived a completely different life. He was a better man simply because of his relationship with Christ. As Ian states, "God has brought ye this far. He'll finish what He's started." Wonderful book by a wonderful author. Can't wait to read more!

I received this book free in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Lisa says**

#### **Enjoyed**

Even though I didn't read the first book I was able to enjoy and understand all that was happening in this book. I'm hoping there will be a third book and that it will be soon.

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### **Michele Hendricks says**

I really enjoyed this book! I love that it left right off from the previous book. It may have been a tad "vivid" in a few places, lol, but it kept the story real. :) Reminded me of Hell on Wheels at times...

Also, loved the realness of the characters and the struggles that they dealt with. Christians are just normal people who make mistakes all the time, but thankfully we have God's mercy & grace to cover us. I'm glad the story portrayed that in the characters.

I kept wondering what would happen with Charles' son... And then that ending!!!! I sure hope that means there will be more to come! ;-) Fingers crossed! ??

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## Loraine says

**SUMMARY:** Charles McIntyre built the lawless, godless mining town of Defiance practically with his bare hands ... and without any remorse for the lives he destroyed along the way. Then a glimpse of true love, both earthly and heavenly, changed him. The question is, how much? Naomi Miller is a beautiful, decent woman. She says she loves McIntyre, that God does, too, and the past is behind them now. But McIntyre struggles to believe he's worth saving ... worth loving. Unfortunately, the temptations in Defiance only reinforce his doubts.

Billy Page abandoned Hannah Frink when he discovered she was going to have his baby ... and now he can't live with himself. Or without her. Determined to prove his love, he leaves his family and fortune behind and journeys to Defiance. Will Hannah take Billy back or give him what he deserves for the betrayal?

**REVIEW:** This is Book 2 in the Romance in the Rockies series. I didn't believe it could possibly be as good as the first book but it was. It was gritty and realistic and dealt with real people and true faith.

Charles and Naomi's love story continues as Charles' faith grows and Naomi develops in patience and temperament. They both still experience the ups and downs from their past. Charles wonders if Naomi will be able to deal with the evil in his past, and if he can truly live up to what his faith demands. Naomi is torn between Matthew and Charles. As she tries to determine which man is truly living his faith, she finds that looking deeper is what will help her see the true man. Charles has to come to grips with his instinct to settle problems with violence that previously has been his leaning. When he faces both Hawthorne and One-Who-Cries, can he choose God's path to judgment and give mercy or will he return to his previous self?

The relationships between the other sisters and their love interests, Rebecca and Ian and Hannah with Emilio and Billy, add to the storyline as each grows and realizes that love must be nurtured and every minute with the person you love counts.

Blanton weaves a strong faith thread throughout this story as she did previously in Book 1. Yet it is never preachy and feels natural and appropriate to the storyline whenever she incorporates it.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes Christian historical action that is filled with action and great characters. Book 3 will be debuting this spring. I will be interested to see how the story between McIntyre and Two Spears develops.

**FAVORITE QUOTES:** (Once again too many to include them all.)

"You are special. Very special. He just wasn't smart enough to realize it."

"If he'd learned anything about God from the sisters, changing his ways was exactly what was supposed to happen as he grew in his faith."

"Haven't your prejudices done enough damage? Money, education, and now skin color. There sure are a lot of requirements for your club."

"A drunk man's tongue speaks a sober man's mind."

The subplots also are well developed with growing relationships between Rebecca and Ian and Hannah and both Emilio and Billy.

## **Betti says**

### **A Definite Page Turner**

Having read book one in this series, I found it difficult to believe that the author could make the second book any better. But I was wrong! This story kept my attention, even to the point of thinking what might happen next when I didn't have the time to sit down and read. The scenery in Colorado was so well written you could see it in your mind's eye. The characters and their stories keep you on your toes, as they wind their way through the story and into your heart. The struggles of believing that one can really be changed are wonderfully portrayed in Charles, as he learns to trust that God can forgive his mistakes if he can put his faith in Him. Those around him are changing in their own ways and bringing Hearts to Defiance!

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