

The WEDDING RAFFLE



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From Publishers Weekly Honor Duvall is a woman with great beauty, an independent spirit, three dead husbands, two stepsons, a mother-in-law and a reputation. What she doesn't have is money. In order to get some, she holds a raffle for her horse. But when Texas ranger Luke Prescott shows up to claim his prize, it turns out there is a hitch?the horse is dead. Despite this inauspicious beginning, Luke agrees to protect Honor and her family against her scurrilous politician father, who is trying to force her to marry a British lordling. For Luke, it's a way to assuage the guilt he feels over his absence at the Alamo, where his compatriots died, and the flight from Santa Anna called the Runaway Scrape that claimed his family. Honor has many skeletons in her closet?and they emerge with dismaying regularity. But Dawson's (Tempting Morality) dialogue is smart and fast-paced; her history is right on without being intrusive (at least

until Sam Houston pays a visit) and Honor, Luke, her stepsons and, particularly, her mother-in-law, Luella, are great characters, funny, earthy and brave. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Literary Times There's quite a stir going on in the town of Bastrop as folks gather to witness the thrice widowed Honor Duvall raffle off the fastest filly in Texas. Ex-Texas Ranger, Luke Prescott, observes the excitement with bored indifference until the winning number is called and no one responds. Even as he lifts the forgotten ticket from his pocket his eyes lock with Honor's and he knows his luck is about to change. Healing from a stray bullet that ended his career with the Rangers six months before, Luke considers that it may be time to settle down. Owning the Widow Duvall's champion quarter horse may be just the thing he needs to start up the horse ranch he's always dreamed of having. At least he thinks so, until he sees his prize belly-up in an awkwardly made coffin, looking suspiciously dead. Furious at being duped by the notorious black widow, Luke doesn't want to hear her hasty explanations, yet something in the desperate tone of her voice makes him take notice. The raffle had been rigged, - that much he'd figured out - a ruse to get him out to her ranch where she, her two young stepsons and her second husband's elderly mother need his protection. If he's to believe the willful, incredibly tantalizing, widow, someone is out to murder them. Oddly, the situation appeals to his Ranger's instincts. Whether she's seriously in trouble or merely leading him into her web of treachery, he intends to get to the bottom of it before moving on. And if someone is out to do her harm, he won't rest until he finds out just who it is. Honor Duvall knows exactly who it is that is out to destroy her and everyone she loves. The less-than honorable Texas congressman, Richard Armstrong - her father. She's allowed herself to be manipulated for his selfish purposes all her life, even going so far as to marry the men of his choosing three times. But this time, when he insisted that she marry a lecherous viscount, she'd put her foot down and flatly refused him. She had more than just herself to consider, the boys and their grandmother were her family now and she'd sworn to take whatever steps necessary to keep them safe, especially from her father, who she knows to be a spy to the British government. Luke soon finds that the need to protect Honor Duvall has as much to do with his attraction to her as with her extreme predicament. In a frantic move to prevent her father from marrying her off once again, Luke and Honor pretend to have eloped. The congressman then begins an evil plan to see his daughter widowed a fourth time. Honor's devotion must transcend blood ties to save the only man she's ever loved. Geralyn Dawson has incomparable style! Ms. Dawson's aptitude for fabulous dialog showcases her natural knack for humor. The Wedding Raffle is a truly riveting romance with characters that are more than exceptional. Lori Wright -- Copyright 1994-97 Literary Times, Inc. All rights reserved See all Editorial Reviews

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目录:

[The WEDDING RAFFLE_下载链接1](#)

标签

评论

[The WEDDING RAFFLE_ 下载链接1](#)

书评

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