

HEARTWARMING INSPIRATIONALLY ROMANTIC

Love Inspired®

The Holiday Nanny

Lois Richer



Hello again!

I adore Christmas. Somehow the joy and hope of celebrating the Messiah's coming birth glows brighter every year. The happy carols, the wondrous gifts and the love of family and friends never grows old. I guess I'm a lot like Connie.

I hope you've enjoyed this first story in my new series, *Love For All Seasons*. Isn't it curious how we often allow fear and worry to steal the joy and peace we could have? Connie wants to find her dad, but her hopes stumble at the hurdles she comes to, as do Wade's when he faces up to his biggest fears. How great to know that this God of ours is big enough to handle any problems we encounter. Look for book 2 in this new series, coming in April.

During this blessed Christmas season, I'd love to hear from you. Contact me on my website: www.loisricher.com, or at Box 639, Nipawin, SK, Canada S0E 1E0. In the meantime, I wish you inner joy to carry you above the stressful moments. I wish you peace that can't be shattered. And I wish you love—the ageless, endless love of God that fills your heart just as fast as you give it away.

Merry Christmas to all!

Blessings,

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Connie felt God led her to Tucson to find her father. Comment on ways we can discern God's leading in our own lives.
2. Consider Wade's situation. How should we as Christians react to such deep betrayal?
3. Amanda blamed Wade for her family's deaths. Suggest ways we may fault others as a means to lessening our own sense of loss or betrayal. What are some alternative ways to deal with our feelings of grief and loss?
4. Connie felt Wade needed to act as if Silver was his daughter until he learned differently. Do you agree? What suggestions would you have for someone in Wade's situation? Is blood truly thicker than water?
5. Connie used the internet as a resource for locating information about her father. Many adopted people do the same to find their birth parents. Discuss pros and cons of this approach and how it may impact the parent, who may be unprepared for a reunion with the child they left behind.
6. Eleven-year-old Connie felt abandoned by her father, Max, yet he had prepared a place for her to be cared for. Do you condone his actions? Suggest ways Christians can help people like Max who might need support but will not ask for it.

7. Silver desperately craved her father's love. List ways we can ensure our own children know they are loved and cherished, besides our actually telling them.
8. Connie desperately wanted the Abbots to find joy together at Christmas. Do you feel we sometimes place too much emphasis on having the perfect Christmas? List ways we can de-stress the holidays for family, friends and those we don't know.
9. Wade found a dinner at the center for the family to help with. At this dinner, Amanda discovered a measure of joy she hadn't realized she could share. Suggest some things we can do to assist those who find the Christmas season difficult and even painful.
10. Wade's friends were a great help in finding Connie's father. Discuss the importance of friends and the roles you expect your friends to play in your own life.
11. Max did not want a reunion with Connie. He felt diminished—as if he'd failed her because he'd lost so much to cancer. Comment on ways we skew the truths in our own lives when reality becomes painful.
12. Connie withheld Wade's letter in hopes of saving the Abbots' Christmas. Wade didn't tell Connie about her father, because he wanted to surprise her. Discuss how good intentions can go awry and cause pain to those we love.
13. Wade's issue of trust took a long time to resolve. Consider how our actions can cause deep hurts in others.

14. Connie worked hard to create a wonderful Christmas for everyone. In the end she, too, experienced a joyful Christmas. Think about ways we can make Christmas more meaningful for ourselves and others by adjusting our attitudes.
15. Connie's mother passed on the Christmas spirit to her daughter through her actions. Take a few moments to dwell on your Christmas habits and traditions. Consider the future. Will your children have a legacy they will carry on, one you've established? Is it too late to start one?



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When Texas Ranger Benjamin Fritz arrives at his captain's house after receiving an urgent message, he finds him murdered and the man's daughter in shock.

Read on for a sneak peek at DAUGHTER OF TEXAS by Terri Reed, the first book in the exciting new TEXAS RANGER JUSTICE series, available January 2011 from Love Inspired Suspense.

Corinna's dark hair had loosened from her normally severe bun. And her dark eyes were glassy as she stared off into space. Taking her shoulders in his hands, Ben pulled her to her feet. She didn't resist. He figured shock was setting in.

When she turned to face him, his heart contracted painfully in his chest. "You're hurt!"

She didn't seem to hear him.

Blood seeped from a scrape on her right upper biceps. He inspected the wound. Looked as if a bullet had grazed her. Whoever had killed her father had tried to kill her. With aching ferocity, rage roared through Ben. The heat of the bullet cauterized the flesh. It would probably heal quickly enough.

But Ben had a feeling that her heart wouldn't heal anytime soon. She'd adored her father. That had been apparent from the moment Ben set foot in the Pike world. She'd barely tolerated Ben from the get-go, with her icy stares and brusque manner, making it clear she thought him not good enough to be in her world. But when it came to her father...

Greg had known that if anything happened to him, she'd need help coping with the loss.

Ben, I need you to promise me if anything ever happens to me, you'll watch out for Corinna. She'll need an anchor.

I fear she's too fragile to suffer another death.

Of course Ben had promised. Though he'd refused to even allow the thought to form that any harm would befall his mentor and friend. He'd wanted to believe Greg was indestructible. But he wasn't. None of them were.

The Rangers were human and very mortal, performing a risky job that put their lives on the line every day.

Never before had Ben been so acutely aware of that fact.

Now his captain was gone. It was up to him not only to bring Greg's murderer to justice, but to protect and help Corinna Pike.

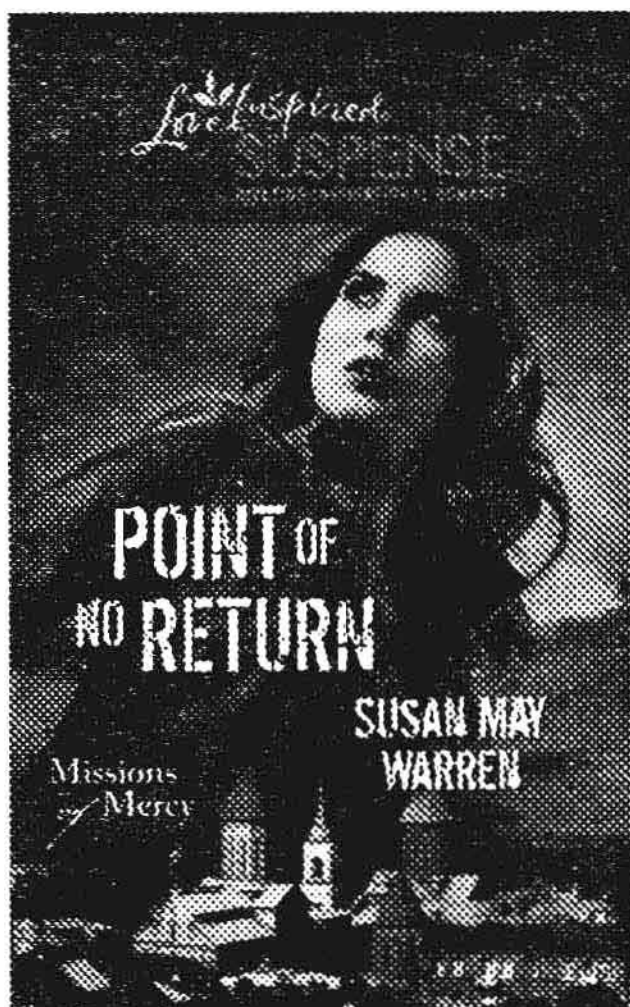
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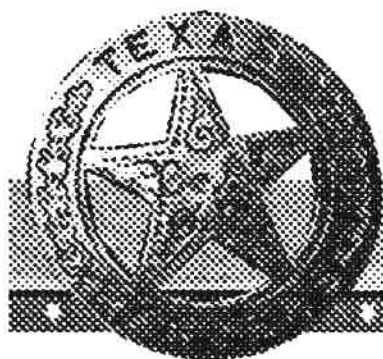
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"I wondered if you had a suggestion for something Silver wants for Christmas," Wade said. "Something she's been really longing for?"

"She wants a dollhouse," Connie replied.

"An original one that's hers alone."

"Yes, now I'll remember her mentioning that. Maybe I could build one?" He began structuring it in his mind. It would be a replica of this house. "You're quite something, Connie," he said, admiration flooding him.

"You've got all of us learning new ways to deal with each other. I appreciate your help."

"I haven't done anything special." Connie kept her head bent, but her red cheeks told Wade everything he needed to know. "I'm just the nanny."

"Hardly," he said as he walked out of his office to find Silver.

He realized how true it was. Silver's nanny had become necessary to all of them. Connie wasn't just doing her job. She was enriching their lives....

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- ***Love for All Seasons*

LOIS RICHER

likes variety. From her time in human resources management to entrepreneurship, life has held plenty of surprises.

“Having given up on fairy tales, I was happily involved in building a restaurant when a handsome prince walked into my life and upset all my career plans with a wedding ring. Motherhood quickly followed. I guess the seeds of my storytelling took root because of two small boys who kept demanding, ‘Then what, Mom?’”

The miracle of God's love for His children, the blessing of true love, the joy of sharing Him with others—that is a story that can be told a thousand ways and yet still be brand-new. Lois Richer intends to go right on telling it.

The Holiday Nanny

Lois Richer



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ISBN-13: 978-0-373-87641-9

THE HOLIDAY NANNY

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I am holding you by your right hand—
I, the Lord your God—and I say to you,
Don't be afraid; I am here to help you.

—*Isaiah* 41:13



This book is dedicated to my dad. I love you.