

Springer's Heart



By Bob Manion

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

All I ever needed to learn about the Marine Corp I learned in Springer's Heart.

Marine Sargent Hank Springer loves his life as a Marine but when the love of his life, Lori dies, Hank retires and moves his family to a ranch in Montana. There Hank fills his life with his growing family, orphaned children, ranch hands and the vast land of the beautiful Montana country side. Hanks heart is full of love for all of this but there is still something missing, a hole in his heart until the lovely Bess Clemons comes on the scene.

Springer's Heart is a story full of adventure and romance. Anyone interested in cowboys, cowgirls, rodeos and all the excitement of a good western romance will love this story.

Reviewed by Jim Harris

I met the author, BOB MANION, three years ago at a writer's conference. This summer, I finally bought a copy of SPRINGER'S HEART (ISBN 978-0978850746, trade paperback, \$14.95). From my personal experiences of talking with the author, I knew he was a great storyteller. The book did not let me down. Before I go any further, I have to tell you that based on what the book says its category is "Romance/Western", I would not have purchased the book. I am not a

fan of either "romances" or "westerns". *SPRINGER'S HEART* is mainstream fiction with romantic situations in a western setting (Montana primarily). There are some rodeo scenes thrown in for background that I found to be informative but not boring in the least.

The story begins with a horrific, fatal car crash. Then Hank Springer's life story unfolds with the one great romance of his life. That produces three great kids - two boys and a girl - who turn out to be wonderful adults. Hank serves in the U.S. Marine Corps for over twenty years. When Hank's wife dies of a serious disease, he moves his family to the ranch in Montana owned by his foster parents. The kids grow up and two move away while one son stays behind. Eventually Hank ends up being the foster parent for the three kids orphaned by the fatal car crash in the opening chapter. Total strangers meld into a happy family.

This happy circumstance begins to show cracks when Hank and his son fall in love. And it is a Mother/Daughter combination! Hank adopts another orphan girl who is being stalked by her mother's killers and who raped and nearly killed her. How it all ends makes a wonderful tale. These are characters you will fall in love with. You will find yourself cheering for them in good times and crying with them in bad times. I highly recommend this story for ALL readers. I am happy I did not let the "Romance/Western" keep me away from an inspiring tale.