12-1-2017

Greene's "A groom for Christmas" (Book Review)

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The book is set in the year 1850 in Laramie, Wyoming. Felicity has lost her father on the way to Oregon and now needs a husband to get her share of land in Oregon. In the reverse of Avoiding the Mistletoe, it is now the woman who is looking for the groom and willing to pay his way. She does find a man and slowly falls in love with him on the trail to the western coast. Anne Greene does not concentrate on the plot or the emotional angst but the picture. Her story is a panoramic picture; it is about the descriptive language and the times. She has this uncanny ability to know how to use description to get the reader immersed into the story but not too much to bog the story down. She also talks briefly about issues of the times such as slavery and cholera. Since this is a picture not a story, she can choose easily where the picture begins and where it will end. In this case, it ends with her acquired husband choosing at the crossroads to go to Oregon to be a farmer rather than go to California and be prospector and at this point less than six months has transpired since the beginning of the story. This story is the second in an anthology called Mulled Christmas Kisses. Even though it is about romance, one cannot help but learn a little about the old west when reading this novella.

Reviewer
Gary R. Averill