Dooley's "A heart's gift: A love's road home novel" (Book Review)

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*A Heart’s Gift* begins in the late 1890’s, up in the mountains of Colorado. Lorinda Sullivan, married to Mike, never dreams that she would become a young widow expecting a child. Facing a bleak future after her house burns to the ground, she feels that she has no choice but to accept the help of a nearby rancher, Franklin Vine.

Inevitably, Lorinda and Franklin fall in love, almost at first sight. Franklin proposes marriage to Lorinda after her son is born, presumably so he can have an heir. Much of the book centers around their relationship and their desire to have a marriage in every way, not just one of convenience.

There is somewhat of a plot throughout the book, but there is so much emphasis on Franklin and Lorinda’s relationship that it almost overshadows the rest of the details of the murder and arson that took place in chapter one.

The last couple chapters wrap up what really happened with Lorinda’s first husband and house. By that time, I had read thru so many chapters of the description of the couple’s attraction and desire for each other that I had almost lost interest in the other part of the story.

This was not a page turner for me. I didn’t feel that there was enough of a story line throughout the book to hold my interest and attention. If you’re looking for more of a romance book than a captivating story line, this one may fit the bill. I personally would not have much interest in reading another book by this author.

**Reviewer**
Rose Van Houten, Christian Junior/Senior High School