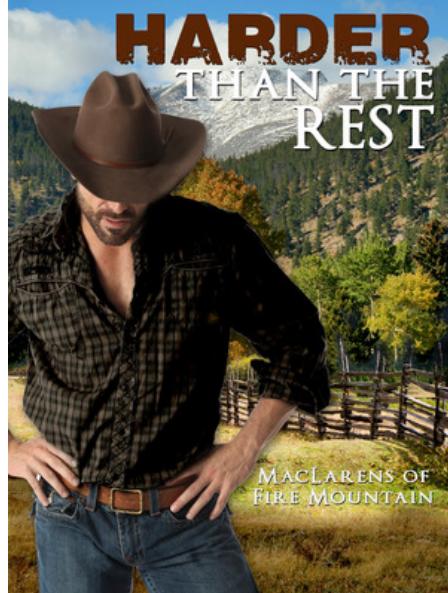


SHIRLEEN DAVIES



## Harder Than the Rest

*Shirleen Davies*

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# Harder Than the Rest

*Shirleen Davies*

## **Harder Than the Rest** Shirleen Davies

Will MacLaren is a hardened, plain-speaking bounty hunter. His life centers on finding men guilty of horrendous crimes and making sure justice is done. There is no place in his world for the carefree attitude he carried years before when a tragic event destroyed his dreams.

Amanda is the daughter of a successful Colorado rancher. Determined and proud, she works hard to prove she is as capable as any man and worthy to be her father's heir. When a stranger arrives, her independent nature collides with the strong pull toward the handsome ranch hand. But is he what he seems and could his secrets endanger her as well as her family?

The last thing Will needs is to feel passion for another woman. But Amanda elicits feelings he thought were long buried. Can Will's desire for her change him? Or will the vengeance he seeks against the one man he wants to destroy—a dangerous opponent without a conscious—continue to control his life?

## **Harder Than the Rest Details**

Date : Published October 19th 2013 by Amazon

ISBN :

Author : Shirleen Davies

Format : Kindle Edition 174 pages

Genre : Romance, Novella, Historical

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## From Reader Review Harder Than the Rest for online ebook

### Kathy says

I just love these books and the brothers in them. If only life could be so sweet like theirs even tho they have hardships things always seem to work out.. Kind of refreshing and upbeat. Good quick reads.

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### Katlyn Womack says

I am loving this series. After reading Tougher Than the Rest, and Faster Than the Rest, I was really looking forward to his one, and I was not disappointed. Harder Than the Rest was just as good.

In this one, Will MacLaren, who is one of the youngest two brothers in this family, (the other youngest being his twin) is seeking revenge. His pregnant wife was murdered by a gang of men who he has been hunting down one by one. There is just one man left, and everyone thinks that he is already dead. Everyone except for Will. He is sure that he is alive and has taken on a new identity. He thinks that he is hiding in the town of Cold Creek, Colorado so he goes there to either kill him, or bring him in to be tried and hung. But first, he has to prove that he is who Will thinks he is. So, Will takes a job as a ranch hand on the ranch right next to the one his suspect works on in order to watch him and gather evidence. But, when he meets Amanda, the ranch owner's daughter, he starts getting distracted from his mission. What follows is a story of mystery, adventure, and romance.

I loved this as well as the other MacLaren books, and I can't wait for Stronger Than the Rest which is set to come out early next year.

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a good old western, or romance, or a little bit of both.

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### Tricia Drammeh says

Will MacLaren's world falls apart when his wife and unborn child are murdered. For five years, he dedicates his existence to hunting down those responsible. At last, he has tracked down the final person involved in his wife's murder and he finds himself on a Colorado ranch. For the first time in five years, his mind is consumed with something besides revenge. He's consumed with passion for Amanda, the rancher's daughter.

This is a story of love, tragedy, revenge, and family ties. The MacLaren brothers rally to help Will and for those who have read the previous books in the series, it's a real treat to see some of our favorite characters in action. As always, the author has created more than a romance story. There's a mystery centered in the heart of the story and while Will struggles to quench his thirst for revenge, he also struggles to help save Amanda's ranch. Of all the MacLaren stories, this one is probably the least romantic. Though there is a definite connection between Will and Amanda, I found this book takes a closer look at the family ties that bind the MacLarens together. An incident that occurs toward the end of the book sets up the next story in the series and is sure to be the best story yet. Over the past three books, I've enjoyed the way the series has evolved and

I can't wait to see what the author has in store for us next.

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### **Alexis1983 says**

This is the best book in the series so far. Will has a dilemma on his hands, the woman or revenge against his nemesis? The prose flows like the rolling land, and before I knew it I was halfway through the book. Each chapter brought more and more complications and trouble for major and minor characters alike, right up until the bloody, nerve shredding climax. Can't wait to read the next one!

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### **Pam Williams says**

#### **Excellent Story,**

I have enjoyed all of the Fire Mountain series. I have already downloaded number four in the series. So far the stories have been different enough that I have not been bored.

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### **Kelly says**

This story is the first I have read from this author. This story is part of a series, that can be read alone. I enjoyed this story about Will and Amanda. The characters are realistic. The series centers around 4 brothers who were orphaned at an early age. Will is now a bounty hunter who is only interested in revenge, having feelings for Amanda was not in the game plan. Will only wants to kill the man who savagely murdered his wife. Amanda does not fit into his plans. Amanda needs help to save her father's ranch, and who better to help than a lawman with ranching experience. This story is filled with action and reminds you that it's all about family. I am looking forward to the next story in this series.

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### **Anari says**

Will MacLaren has one thing on his mind. Revenge. After several fruitless years of searching for his wife and unborn child's killer, when he finally comes across the lowlife in question, he can't wait to pull the trigger.

Amanda Taylor is the feisty and proudly independent daughter of a Colorado rancher. When Will lands on her doorstep, she wants the chemistry that flows between them about as much as he does - not at all. Both are determined to ignore the passion that sizzles between them until a horrific night where Amanda and her family are held hostage by cattle rustlers and Will's brother gets shot. Even then, the path of romance is far from easy. Both have their own lives to lead and their own responsibilities, the question is: can one of them learn to compromise?

Another captivating and engrossing read by Ms Davis - can't wait to read about Drew's adventures in the forthcoming book!

5 Star Read!

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### **Sylvia says**

The ???MacLarens of Fire Mountain??? series continues with the main focus being around Will as he pursues one of the men responsible for killing his Emily and unborn baby. He keeps a great deal of distance between himself and his family, and isn???t the slightest bit interested in other women. All that changes around Amanda, as their attraction for one another soon becomes too difficult to ignore.

All of the MacLaren brothers have something that make them both interesting and lovable, and Will, even though he appears to be cold and recluse at the start, is no exception. When he does finally come around, it couldn???t be at a better time as he will need help against a murderer who has no concept of mercy. With lots of tension and stakes to be had, ???Harder Than the Rest??? is a great continuation that is hard to put down.

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### **Natalie Ryabenko says**

I really enjoyed this book with it's heart warming story. It shows you that losing someone you love will take you to places you would not normally go, but finding love again helps you heal from loss.

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### **Jo Ann says**

My favorite book of the series so far! Will and Amanda have a slow burning love rife with sexual tension. I immediately loved these two strong willed characters. Secondary characters where well drawn and it was great to catch up with the entire MacLaren family. The narrative is perfectly crafted with clear writing of a complex story arc and a gentle weaving of the story line for Drew's book. Ms Davies attention to detail really brings this historical western to life.

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### **sharon trotter says**

#### **MACLARENS**

I have really enjoyed this series there is drama,action, and love what an amazing family you almost feel like you are their can't wait till starting the next one

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### **Judy says**

This is the third book about the MacLarens of Fire Mountain - Will's story. I must confess that I was stunned to realize that what I had hoped to read about - Will's and Emily's romance, eventual marriage, etc., was

finis, complete, tragically in the past before this book began.

**\*SPOILER ALERT\***

Instead, what we have is a very angry and revengeful Will MacLaren who is winding down his five year hunt of the bad guys who attacked his family as they were riding into town one afternoon. The attack resulted in the death of his wife, Emily, who had been the love of Will's life since his youth. No wonder he is angry and rarely takes the time to communicate or return home for visits with his family on Fire Mountain. He has one last bad guy to deal with and his trail leads him to a cattle ranch in Colorado owned by the Taylor family. He knows the last man on his list - a man who goes by the name of Chet Hawley - is in the area and Will is determined to take Chet Hawley down so he can get on with his dreary life.

Will hires on at the Taylor Ranch as he continues to check on Chet Hawley to make sure he is the man he has been hunting. Amanda Taylor, daughter of the owner, Grant Taylor, and the ranch foreman, Jake, are currently in charge of the ranch while Grant and his wife are out of town. Of course, the lovely Amanda is going to be the one thing that will help fill up the hole in Will's heart. This is where the story begins to slide downhill and in truth, I found I had to make a real effort to stay interested enough to finish reading the book. The romance between Will and Amanda just didn't do it for me. They touch and they are immediately in what? Lust? I'm not sure what it was. There is very little in the way of a relational build-up and certainly not much of a romantic build-up.

In addition, there were several minor characters but the characters were not flushed out enough. Personally, I would prefer to have fewer characters than have very little or absolutely no background information on them. Otherwise, I simply can't bring myself to care. I will give Ms. Davies huge credit for sucking this reader in with an ending that compels me to purchase the next book in this series so I can find how Drew's life will turn out.

I very rarely comment on grammar issues in the books I review. However, Ms. Davies might consider having her editor do a little research on the proper usage of plural vs. possessive when using family names such as Taylors or MacLarens. After awhile, the wrong usage of the apostrophe begins to grate a little on the reader. Wrong: The Taylor's have invited us over for dinner. Right: The Taylors have invited us over for dinner.

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**Clive Miguel says**

**Well Written!**

I have read book one and book two and just finished book three in this series! Couldn't pause when I started!

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