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**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR LINDA LAEL MILLER
UNVEILS A HEARTWARMING TALE SET ON THE ARIZONA FRONTIER**

THE BRIDEGROOM
August 2009
A Stone Creek Novel

Just as an undercover detective prepares to start a secret new assignment, he receives a letter that will change his life. **THE BRIDEGROOM** (HQN Books, August 2009), from *New York Times* bestselling author Linda Lael Miller, is the fifth book in her popular Stone Creek historical romance series. It's the story of the youngest Yarbro brother, Gideon, all grown up and working as an undercover detective in the dangerous world of the American west.

Gideon Yarbro is used to keeping a low profile—he knows his life usually depends on it. Now, acting as an agent for the Copper Crown Mining Company, Gideon is being hired to pose as an ordinary miner to weed out any strike-inciting agitators. Unfortunately, this particular mine happens to be in Gideon's hometown of Stone Creek, Arizona. Not even his brothers, Rowdy and Wyatt, can know that Gideon's taking up a shovel is just a ruse to win the miners' trust, because if they find out, then his secret won't stay a secret long. All Gideon wants to do is quietly go about his work and avoid his family as much as possible. But circumstances are about to abruptly change for Gideon....

Gideon's childhood friend, Lydia Fairmont, has no choice but to marry a man she hates. That or lose everything she holds dear—her family home, her two aunts, who would be destitute, and her housekeeper,



Helga. With the bank about to foreclose and no means of earning an income, Lydia is resigned to marrying the odious but wealthy Jacob Fitch. Her slim hope is in getting a response from her letter.

The bond forged between Gideon and Lydia stems from their childhood—and for him, it is unforgettable. Before they parted, Gideon had given Lydia a letter to send if she ever needed his help—please come and get me right away. When the letter reaches him, Gideon knows he must do whatever it takes to protect her.

Spurred on by emotion, Gideon refuses to let Lydia enter into a loveless marriage forever. Instead he insists she marry him for now and bring her household to live with him in Stone Creek. Forced to rely on his brothers for support, he knows his cover won't last long. When it's blown he'll need to leave town fast—and what will happen to Lydia?

Worse, Lydia's ex-fiancé, Jacob Fitch, is out for revenge. With a deadly killer on his trail, the situation at the mine going from bad to worse and his family looking for answers, Gideon must work against time to keep his new wife—and himself—safe.

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