



English Lessons

J.M. Hayes

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On a bleak Christmas morning, Sewa Tribal Police Officer Heather English patrols a desolate canyon on the Arizona reservation. Her father, the Benteen County, Kansas Sheriff, is lonely enough with no family around to go work at his office. On the way, Sheriff English calms a wild incident in a church parking lot. Then receives a death threat. The crèche, at the center of the town's largest holiday yard display, has been desecrated. Its owner plans to kill the neighbors he suspects are responsible. To keep their husband and father home, his family gives the sheriff the man's guns and promises not to let him make trouble. Soon the county fills with rumors that the sheriff is systematically violating Second Amendment rights and seizing every weapon. A local militia turns out, locked and loaded, and ready to do what it takes to stop him. Meanwhile, in Arizona, Heather stumbles on the newly-elected governor, newly murdered. A note explains his death is part of a drug war. His killer promises Heather she'll be among the victims. Her Uncle Mad Dog, a Cheyenne wanna-be shaman, is involved. Someone thinks Mad Dog is a drug lord and sends him a last minute gift—a severed human hand. Careful police work, a little Cheyenne magic, and maybe a Christmas miracle are needed to restore peace on earth. One slip, however, and Mad Dog, Sheriff English, and Heather will rest in peace—eternally!

English Lessons Details

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From Reader Review English Lessons for online ebook

Larry Hostetler says

An interesting mystery. Set in both Tucson, Arizona and Kansas, areas with which I am familiar, so I appreciated the settings.

What became distracting was the toggle back and forth between the two locales and separate story lines. Perhaps had the toggles been less frequent as the plot thickened might have been less distracted by the structure. But the minimal connectedness of the two main plots helped fill the pages but in more of a schizophrenic way than otherwise. It was almost like two short stories intertwined unnecessarily.

I bought the book because the cover quote suggested "Hayes...gives Janet Evanovich a run for the wackiest characters..." I appreciate zany, madcap fiction, but this was more odd than zany and there wasn't anything close to madcap.

A bit disappointing because of unrealistic expectations. But an interesting read.

Kathy says

It's Christmas Day but Heather English, a SEWA tribal officer in southern Arizona, is working. So is her father, Sheriff English, in Benteen County, Kansas. This action packed thriller takes place on one day, Christmas. And what an explosive Christmas Day it is. There is quite a bit of firepower in this novel as well as characters obsessed with second amendment rights and cross border drug wars. Heather and her uncle, Mad Dog, pasts have found them in southern Arizona while the Sheriff is dealing with home grown insurgents.

I highly recommend this action packed, fast moving fascinating thriller that kept me turning the pages. It is available in July.

Shauna says

Heather English is a Sewa Tribal police officer in Arizona, who finds the new mayor dead, in an obscure canyon on Christmas day. Meanwhile, her Father, Sheriff English in in Kansas trying to calm a group of residents who think the government is coming to take their weapons. This was a fun read with interesting/wacky characters.

Kilian Metcalf says

A cross between murder mystery & screwball comedy. Somehow it works. If you like your mayhem with a

light touch, these are the books for you.

Normalene says

Again, I loved the first one and this one was pretty good with some interesting developments.

Debra says

Drug wars in Arizona. Pee pisses folks off in Kansas. What is the world coming to? The English family is back, trying to keep order. Of course there is the usual mayhem with Hailey the Wolf perhaps showing the most maturity of all of them. And we wouldn't have it any other way.

Karin Wollina says

I love the Stories from Bentin County. Fast paced, very funny and thoughtful, I really recommend it highly.

Patty says

This series is so full of action, it keeps you reading until the end. I'm sad this is the last book in the series for awhile. This author also makes you care about the family and the unique characters.

Jodi says

Although Hayes laced the story with humor, the level of gruesome violence coupled with ignorant bigotry (two storylines, though the latter had more than its share of the former) made it hard to listen to. It starts on Christmas day when tribal police officer Heather English (not the Englishman of the series title) finds the skin of the governor-elect of Arizona and it's no longer on his body. What is on his body is a letter addressed to her. Meanwhile back in Kansas, her father, the Englishman in question, begins his day as sheriff trying to stop a little old lady from bashing every car in the vicinity. He ends up having to shoot her car to a stop. That unleashes a militia war that could destroy the entire town and everyone in it. Meanwhile, Mad Dog and his wolf Hailey had their own Christmas gift. A hand. Not attached to a body. Lloyd James, the reader, an audiobook winner, didn't seem like a good fit for the story but I can't put my finger on why. Maybe because the story didn't catch my attention until midway through and really, not even then.
