



To Win a Viscount

Frances Fowlkes

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England, 1820. To gain a certain marquess's notice, Lady Albina Beauchamp aims to win the derby. What she hadn't planned for is the price handsome Mr. Edmund White asks in payment to train her to race: each lesson for a kiss.

A first place finish isn't the only thing worth racing for

Lady Albina Beauchamp is in love with the Marquess of Satterfield. Unfortunately, his only interest is in horses, and doesn't know she exists. But when the marquess confesses he will bestow his undying admiration on the jockey racing the winning horse at Emberton Derby, Albina sets out to win his affections by training to race.

Mr. Edmund White is a master groomsmen for the Earl of Amhurst in line for a viscountcy, should he abandon his passion for horses and become a respectable sheep owner. But horses are his love--until he meets Lady Albina and her silly notions of racing. When she affirms she will enter the derby with or without his assistance, Edmund not only instructs his student in racing, but seduction as well.

For Albina, a first place finish isn't the only thing at stake. She must decide whether to take her place in society...or follow her heart and love a groom.

To Win a Viscount Details

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From Reader Review To Win a Viscount for online ebook

Stacy Reid says

I wasn't quite sure what to think of Albina when I started reading To Win a Viscount. She frustrated me with her blind adoration of man who did not notice her at all. I admired her scheme for him to fall in love with her, even though I did not agree with it for surely it would lead to greater ruin. I continued reading and she charmed the frustration right out of me and had me liking her a great deal. I enjoyed her growth into a steady, kind, and thoughtful young lady, and I loved how she did not struggled overmuch with realizing that she did not love the Marquess but it was our hero Edmund who had truly won her heart with his stolen kisses and riding lessons.

Edmund, the heir to a viscountcy but wished for a simpler life with horses, was an interesting and amiable character. He was very good with Albina, patient and encouraging, and I enjoyed watching the manner in which he fell in love with her. Albina and Edmund story was a sweet and engaging one and I enjoyed them together.

4.25 stars.

Mary - Buried Under Romance says

DNF

As someone I know once said, "You can't cure stupid." When the heroine is this bad, nothing else can help.

This is the first time I've dropped a book by the first chapter, not only because I was not at all hooked by the story, but mostly because I've never had the previous displeasure of reading a historical romance with such a delusional, idiotic heroine. These types are usually reserved for the heroine's relations, but not here, and I could not torture myself to keep reading.

The initial premise sounded outlandish, but reading it one clearly sees a stupid girl who believes this marquess should love her if he but knows it. If only they were able to actually carry out a conversation! (If only he would actually realize her existence.) Alas, the marquess - who doesn't seem that bright either - is only interested in a derby and will admire the winning horse and its rider. So of course, a young lady is respectable birth is scheming to become a jockey, not to consider what the kind of act will entirely ruin her reputation, that female jockeys were not allowed in competitions then (does she plan to dress as a boy? She didn't say so) and not that the marquess will even notice her should she win, because he will love her. *Right*.

What I like about historical romance is the idea of two people (often of high birth) finding love at a time and place not conducive to genuine courtship. What I cannot stomach are delusional heroines and nonsensical plots that do not fit within the strictures of its time period. I gratefully thank all the authors who write intelligent heroines with actual personalities.

Tammy says

Lady Albina is in love with the Marquess of Satterfield but he doesn't know she exists. She plans to change

all that by winning the Emberton Derby she just needs Edmund to do so. He plans to teach her more than just about racing horses. This was a good story, I liked the characters as well as the message the book conveyed. The story held my interest throughout. I really liked it.

Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by Rachel

Book provided by publisher

Originally posted at Romancing the Book

As a fan of regency romance, I've read a lot of different twists and turns within the genre. In *To Win a Viscount*, Frances Fowlkes takes a completely different and refreshing take on a great premise.

Lady Albina loves horses, almost as much as she loves the Marquess of Satterfield. Of course, he doesn't know she exists. Desperate times call for desperate measures, and being of the conspiring sort, she and her sisters devise a plan to win his attention and affection.

All she needs is a horse.

And training.

And her brother in law to turn a blind eye.

Naturally, hell would have to freeze over first, but one thing leads to another, giving the opportunity she needs! What she didn't expect was an enticing groom with brilliant blue eyes and broad shoulders to be her teacher. And when one lesson leads to another type of lesson all together, her affection for the Marquess is brought into question. Is loving a groom truly worth the price?

I have to admit, at first I really didn't like Lady Albina, mainly because I felt like she was "silly"... one of those regency heroines who has no grasp of reality. But soon you realize that she just WANTS to be noticed for something—anything. She feels like horses are her way to do that and though Satterfield is a complete ass, it makes sense that she would seek his attention because of his station.

The pacing of the story is spot on, and it's one of those stories that you do feel could be rushed if it isn't done right. I adored Edmund as our hero and I loved how he was strict with Albina. He almost forced her to grow up, though I will admit that it still felt a bit fast (the love part and how she switched between both men so suddenly, but part of that was due to the fact she never loved Satterfield in the first place).

The added "twist" towards the end with her brother and his involvement as also really exciting as a reader and added that needed layer to make this regency story go from good to great.

The characters are lively and true to their historical era. I loved the way Frances Fowlkes weaves in the right amount of folly with sensibility, leading to a great tale that I couldn't put down. I'm already looking forward to the next book in the series.

My only complaint would be that the book truly could have been a bit longer but that could be because I didn't put it down once I started it, which is just another mark in this author's favor. It's not the best regency I've ever read but it's a SOLID regency that will keep me coming back for more from this author.

Tracy's Place says

I will give this a 3 because I really like the authors writing but the story gets a 1. I'm sorry to say that because I liked book one so well. In this book Albina, her actions, and some of the actions of the other characters just pissed me off so much it was hard not to throw my Kindle against the wall.

Book Gannet says

This book doesn't make any sense. Albina wants to marry the marquess because she loves him (supposedly) and knows that his social standing will repair the recent damage done to her family's name. But first she must grab his attention – by doing something completely scandalous that would likely ruin her forever. This is the level of logic that this book bases itself on, and I'm sad to say it doesn't get much better. Such as the idea that a curvy woman could ever attempt to pass herself off as male, while wearing tight clothing.

Another big problem is that I found Albina annoying. She's headstrong and snobby and never thinks about consequences. Her twin Sarah is even worse of a snob, and the pair of them frequently come across as brats. Edmund is pretty boring too, except when it comes to horses.

Ah, the horses. That's the one thing I was most excited about when beginning this book, and it's also where I felt most letdown. This is not a book about horses. Despite both Albina and Edmund claiming to love horses, I'm not sure they even like them all that much – as shown by their total disregard for their mounts' health by racing them straight out of the stable yard. The horses don't even have *names*, let alone characters. They're interchangeable transport things that are a major part of the plot, but have no presence. And the idea of putting a sidesaddle on a young racing Thoroughbred that has only ever been ridden astride made me roll my eyes, let alone the way Edmund "trains" Albina to race by getting her to gallop about a bit. And the way they continually get off the horses to wander about without that causing problems – only for Albina to calmly hoist herself back on board afterwards! Don't even get me started on the idea that she can control a young, eager racehorse without issue – unless she's in a sidesaddle, because then she is hopeless, of course. Oh, and the stallions. There seem to be a lot of stallions about, which considering the number of mares might prove tricky at times.

Then there's the terminology. Some of this is definitely a UK/US thing, but it still irritated me since it's supposedly set in Regency England. Barns are not stables, stables are not barns, they are completely different buildings. Horses don't run, they gallop. And what the hell were the ribbons about? They're reins! The only time I've ever heard reins referred to as ribbons is for carriages (and only in historical romances, which might possibly be down to to Georgette Heyer). It bugged me every single time. Oh, and English riding usually requires the rider to hold the reins in both hands, not just one and especially not when racing.

Which leads to the question of why did I bother to finish this book? I'm not entirely sure. Stubbornness, probably. Persisting did mean that I found Albina improved a little as the book went on, but I also learned that the earl is a horrible manipulator who I ended up disliking excessively by the end of the book. There's also a really weird scene where he keeps referring to Albina and her sisters as his kin and the Daughters of Amhurst. I don't think even a Regency gentleman would call his sisters-in-law that.

So, overall, this book and I did not get along at all. The heroine is very childish at the beginning, the plot is daft, the other characters never did much to endear themselves to me, the historical accuracy is questionable at times and the lack of genuine horses in a book about racing was a major disappointment. I don't think I'll be reading the next one, even if the last chapter did it's best to tease about what might happen next.

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.)

Carla says

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review

About a year ago I read the first book in this series, and I loved it! I found it so sweet and beautiful, Henrietta and the Earl were a great couple, reading about their imperfections and flaws, and how much they cared about each other was very enjoyable. So when I had the chance to read the sequel, following the story of one of Henrietta's sisters, I thought I might also enjoy it. But boy, was I wrong.

I think the main reason is that I really loved the Earl and Henrietta in the last book, I loved how broken they were (and let's be honest, I also loved the whole *Beauty and the Beast* vibe that was going on there, I'm a big fan of those). But there wasn't a single moment while reading *To Win a Viscount* when I actually liked the hero. In fact, I couldn't even stand the guy.

In the first few chapters Edmund thinks so often about how he's bedded so many woman, how he had uncontrollable urges when he was younger and what not. Relax boy, I don't need to know all that, or that you can't seem to keep it in your pants.

The Earl was much more sweet and less creepy than Edmund, what he thought most about was how hunted he was by his past and a former love of his, and also about the scar that covered half of his face and the pain that came with it. Edmund just seems to be thinking about women and sex.

I loved to see how the Earl, who was Albina's protector, and the Duke (and owner of the derby) wanted Albina to race, while Edmund just kept shouting in his head "*BUT SHE'S A WOMAN!!*". Oh-My-God, Edmund, yes, she's a woman, we know already, you made that clear, and thanks to you I'll never forget that Lady Albina Beauchamp is a woman. Thank you.

If her protector and the owner of the derby are fine with Albina's wish, then just let it be! You're in no position to tell any of them what to do. And by the way, I was actually very surprised to see how freely he addressed them, no groom in his serious mind would do that.

And even though he mentions so often that she's a woman and, on top of that, a lady, he doesn't seem to have any problems taking so many liberties with her. Sure, Mr. White, less than seven seconds of riding is definitely a day's lesson, surely you deserve "your payment", that kiss you asked from her when you told her you'd be training her for the derby... But oh no, please, just suit yourself and try to get more than a kiss while you're at it, even though it wasn't part of the deal *and* even though you're getting something out of it from the Earl: actual payment.

He is so disrespectful that he even starts questioning Albina like crazy, like he has the right to know whatever he wants, but the moment she asks a simple question, he estates that they're not equals and what not, and that he shouldn't be telling her anything...

I really tried reading this, I almost put it down more than once before I finally did, but decided against it and

gave it another chance every time, especially because I liked the first book so much, but I just couldn't like Edmund, I couldn't.

I'm sorry if this was just me ranting about how much I dislike Edmund White, but he was, after all, the reason I wasn't enjoying the story.

More reviews on my blog: *Lipstick and Mocha*

April says

To Win a Viscount #2 in "Daughters of Amhurst" by Frances Fowlkes is a unique Regency Historical Romance. While, Book 2, it can be read as a stand alone. Set in 1820 England.

This is the story of Albina Beauchamp and Edmund White. Albina is in love with the Marquess of Satterfield, but he's only sees horses. So Albina, enlists the help of Edmund, a groomsmen in the Amhurst employ. She wishes to be a winning horse jockey. Edmund loves horses and stables, so he agrees to teach Albina about horses, as well as, use a bit of seduction. Edmund, is the heir to a viscounty, himself, but loves horses, and doesn't wish the responsibilities involved in a Vicountcy. What follows is a story in love blossoming into a HEA. In the beginning, Albina, is a bit self-centered, naive, and a frustrating, young lady. It was interesting to watch her grow into herself, become, a kind and charming young lady. Edmund, is kind, patient, encouraging, amiable with an adventurous spirit.

I enjoyed watching Albina and Edmund's love blossom.

Steady paced, uniquely written with well-developed characters. Fans of horses, horse racing, life's lessons and finding out life has many twists and turns, and love develops in very strange circumstances, will enjoy "To Win a Viscount". A sweet, and engaging Regency Romance.

Received for an honest review from Net Galley.

Rating: 4

Heat rating: Mild

Reviewed by: AprilR

Amanda says

4.5 heart-pounding hearts

Albina is not like her sisters, she will not accept others making decisions for her. She has her heart set on the Marquess of Satterwhite and she aims to make him her husband. Unfortunately he seems to still be holding a torch for her older sister, her very married older sister who is married to the current Earl of Amhurst. The Marquess's only other passion that Albina seems to see would be that of horses. She picks up on a comment that he makes that he would respect the jockey that wins the derby coming up in six weeks. Fortunately for Albina and her father's love for her passions when he was alive, she was an excellent horsewoman, she just

needs practice. She's sure she can get all the kinks out and perfect her technique as well as convince the Earl to let her race. All she needs is the Marquess to respect her and that can turn to love right? All her plans have huge, gaping holes in them. The groom is tough to get by, but he lets her ride one of the horses and tells her if she beats him, he will plead her case to the Earl. She doesn't, her pride gets in the way. But something about her has Mr White asking her back to practice and Albina doesn't know why, but she doesn't question it too much. She has too much riding on the coaching he's offering her to question his motives, but who really has the high stakes in this race? In the weeks of practice, Albina is changing and not just in her form.

Reviewer for Romance Authors that Rock

Penny says

3.5 Save a Horse, Ride a Groomsman Stars

I can totally get behind a lady who wants to do things just the way boys do, having been a tomboy and all. *To Win a Viscount* was a fun and light story I enjoyed immensely.

Albina has her sights set on a certain gentleman who hasn't acknowledged her presence for the past year. All he seems to care about are horses and the Derby they race in. So when she hears him saying the jockey that wins the race will have his admiration she jumps on the chance to make him notice her. The catch? Ladies are not supposed to ride astride, and even if she's been doing that since childhood she'll need some help to get in the shape needed to win such a prestigious race and of course, a horse.

Luckily for her, her sister's new husband has everything she needs right there in his stables where Edmund, the head groom, trains his race horses. His passion has always been horses: the faster the better, and has even passed up a Viscountcy in favor of training them.

When Albina asks him to train her, he impulsively asks for her kisses as payment for each lesson, and most surprisingly, she accepts his price. Unbeknownst to Albina, though, her brother in law had already requested Edmund train her when his jockey mysteriously disappears six weeks before the derby.

The more Edmund and Albina spend together in their lessons, the more she realizes how different a man Edmund is from her ridiculous crush, and soon enough their feelings for each other are guiding them into dangerous paths...

“I wish to take you in the most improper of ways, Albina.”

In spite of his improper thoughts above his station, Edmund was a great H: sweet, honorable and a sexy redhead to boot. He does lose his way somewhere around the ending but promptly gets his head out of his posterior and goes and win his lady back.

I really liked Albina too, she was determined, knew who she was and didn't apologize for it. Though it took her a little too long to realize that she had built up some pretty ridiculous expectations about someone she didn't really know when she finally opened her eyes to who was right for her she did not back down until she got him.

There was a bit of meddling by sisters and other family members, most of it going behind Albina's back, that I didn't really feel it was necessary, but mostly, *To Win a Viscount* was in all a fun reading experience. I'm

definitely keeping up with the next sister's story.

I received a complimentary copy of this book

Brittany says

I received this from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. I will admit this was such a hard read for me to get into. I had received this so long ago but was just now able to finish it. The story was super slow but it did get better in the end. I guess I'm now ready for book 2.

Linda says

I read the previous book in this series which I enjoyed but this one didn't quite measure up mainly because I found the heroine quite immature and rather silly at the beginning. The story & the heroine do get better as the story continues.

Lady Albina is the daughter of an Earl and for the past year has been totally besotted by a marquess who was pursuing but was spurned by her now married older sister. Never mind that said marquess has shown totally no interest in her no matter how much she puts herself in his face.

"The Marquess of Satterfield was in love with Lady Albina Beauchamp. He was simply unaware of the fact. He was a man besotted, pricked by the arrow of Cupid himself."

rolls eyes in disbelief

The only reason she's enamored is because of his looks and his title, yet she declares herself totally in love with him to her family.

I liked the hero much better. Edmund agrees to train Albina in secret when her obvious love for horses and spirit reminds him of his deceased younger sister. Unlike the marquess to whom Albina is almost invisible to, Edmund openly praises and encourages her. Initially Albina treats him like a lowly servant but soon realizes how contemptible that is of her & learns to appreciate him as a person.

I found parts of the story somewhat irregular and thought Albina's twin, Sarah who is studious and intelligent, the more interesting character.

Copy gifted in exchange for an honest review.

Rosemary K says

How does a lady attract the attention of the man she wants to marry? If your Lady Albina Beauchamp and the man is a horse mad Marquess, you become a jockey and win a derby while pretending to be a man. What could possibly go wrong? Mr. Edmund White is the master groomsmen for the Earl of Amhurst. He's enchanted by the spirited beauty and agrees to train her. I loved their chemistry and their playfulness. The

relationship is more than physical attraction. I enjoyed seeing these two fall in love. I wanted a HEA but I wasn't sure how it would happen. A lady and a groom is unheard of. She would be a social outcast and her family would suffer. I sighed when the couple pledge their love. I wanted to shake the Earl when he interfered. I loved To Win A Viscount. The story was charming, the dialogue witty and the characters well written. I admired the Lady Albina. I read this book from cover to cover in one day. I like France's Fowlkes' style.

I received a copy in exchange for an honest and unscripted review.

Fizza says

Albina is willing to do anything to attract the attention of Marquess of Satterfield, who is clearly still in love with her sister. But her sister is now married and very soon he will realize that Albina is far more suitable as his bride than Henrietta could've ever been. So now she is planning to ride a race horse. Because she knows that Marquess loves horses. That's how she ends up training with her brother-in-law's head groomsmen, Mr. White.

Mr. White will teach her everything she needs to learn about horses. Then she will finish first in Emberton Derby and garner the interest of one elusive Marquess. But what she never dreamed of was falling for the groom.

Mr. White is everything her Marquess isn't, and what more he is actually interested in her. Soon she finds herself falling for him...

Edmund is enamored with Lady Albina. She is unlike any Lady he knows of. She rides horses dressed like a man. And shares his passion for anything related to horses and riding. He only wish that she pays him some attention. He knows that she will never marry him. Because he doesn't have a title but they can spend time together and steal kisses. It's better than nothing. Unfortunately, very soon he is in love with her and now he just wishes that he had a title so he could propose to her...

Things may not be as impossible as they seemed at first...

To be honest I didn't enjoy it much. But that's because I have zero interest in horses. And they were a big part of the story. Regardless I am giving it a 4-Stars rating because it is very well-written, characters are amazing, and also there are some great scenes which I enjoyed reading. Furthermore, romance aspect the story is perfect. So even though I couldn't enjoy it (regretfully) I am quite sure that many others will love it. Some might even think that the horses are the best part of this book. I hope that's the case.

Melanie says

I loved this read by Frances Fowlkes. Along with the great story of Lady Albina and Edmund, I thought that this one also had a great overall lesson that we could all benefit from. It is about who the person is and not the title they hold.

Lady Albina had been trying to get the attention of a marquis that is pursuing her older sister, but with no luck. Her older sister is now married and she still is not able to win the attention of the one she wants. Albina has a twin sister, Sarah that brings a lot to this story as well. I thought all the characters were well developed. They brought with them their own personalities and made the story very interesting and kept you wanting to know how things were going to end for all of them.

When Edmund sees Albina's love for horses, he decides to help train her in secret. Albina's love of horses reminds him of his sister and that is what helps him to want to train her. When things begin to get heated between Edmund and Albina as their training progresses, Albina wonders if she has had her eyes on the wrong man all along. Will these two be able to keep their relationship as secret as they have their training? Or will they want to?

You have to read this sweet story to find out what happens between Albina and Edmund. Frances Fowlkes does a fine job with this one! I can't wait for the next installment in The Daughters of Amhurst!
