



Abigail

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Since the death of her mother, Abigail Blakeslee has lost all desire to become a debutante and enter Society. But now, foregoing her first Season has brought an unwanted invitation to join her aunt and cousins for a summer at Timpton House, the large estate of the Stanton family.

Reluctantly accepting, Abigail is thrust into the vexing world of social propriety and matchmaking she had hoped to avoid. More vexing still is her cousin's suitor, the young Timpton heir—Edwin Stanton. Moody and distant at times, remarkably endearing at others, Edwin seems a puzzle she can never solve, but can never quite put away. Yet then, Abigail has her own secret to hide—her own mystery to conceal. Perhaps such puzzles are better left unsolved, or perhaps love can find a solution.

Abigail Details

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From Reader Review Abigail for online ebook

Ru4repeat says

A regal regency read

I'll give you peek at some of the numerous notes in my Kindle edition of this book to help you understand what you're in for. "So true" was noted first, followed by several "hahaha" peppered with "touché" and "so witty." My favorites were "swoon" or "be still my heart."

I enjoyed the first person perspective throughout. I really liked the instances where I felt like I knew more than Abigail about what was going on!

The characters had depth and were not only relatable, but engaging as well. I loved some. I disliked some. Yet, they all stuck with me.

On a steaminess level I would rate this a hot PG. It had all the build up and feelings without the uncomfortable blushing descriptions too many other authors use.

This is an excellent book and is definitely worthy of a repeat read!

Emily Flynn says

Abigail is a beautiful story of healing. Really. When Abigail attends a house party with her Aunt and cousins, all is not what it seems. She has to resist the temptation of the man who is courting her cousin, his mother is responding to her almost as if there is a long time grudge, and his sister keeps meddling while befriending Abigail. All is not as it seems and will be revealed when the secrets come out. The characters are beautiful and relatable. I would read this author and probably this book again and again.

Desiree says

This is a brand new author for me and her writing had me staying up too late to finish the book. I enjoyed the dialogue, how scenes were set/described. The author did well in sucking me into the story. The h was feisty and funny. In just having watched North and South, movie based on Elizabeth Gaskell's book, the romance reminded me a bit of that. Enemies to friends to love. There was a good twist that I didn't see! What gave me pause was how a scandal at the end was handled. I don't think people would be as accepting. As I reading the last few chapters I was thinking of alternatives that would still give a HEA and keep with the time.

However, that's my own personal opinion and another reader might not be bothered at all. I really did enjoy her writing and the book. This is why I gave it a 4 and not 5 stars

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

Ooh, I really enjoyed this story! It definitely had a Pride and Prejudice sort of feel for me with the brooding hero, the passionate and intelligent heroine and plenty of misunderstandings and judgements on both sides.

Abigail is so easy to love. Honestly, she is kind, compassionate and freely herself even when it goes against

what is "proper". She is a defender of people and exceptionally loyal. See? What's not to love?

I love how this story unfolded. Insight came little by little as I came to know the characters more and more. It was perfect. By the end I really felt like a movie had just played out in my mind and in my heart. The build up to the romantic, sigh worthy ending was fantastic. I'm sighing just thinking about it!

You can pick this book up FREE today only. How awesome is that?! Happy reading, everyone!

Content: mention of abuse, kissing

- I read a complimentary copy but have since picked up my own copy.

Deanne Patterson says

Despite this being a debut author the author doesn't write like she is. This book has a lot of substance. A lot of regencies in my opinion have a lot of fluff and eye lash fluttering and flirting over fans. The heroine here, Abigail is not afraid to state her opinion on things and tell Edwin Stanton exactly how she feels about things. After her mother's death Abigail is sent to Timpton House, the estate of the Stanton family. She didn't attend her first season in London so she'll be eased into society by being taught the social niceties by her family there. In this sweet, clean romance I really loved seeing the interaction between her and Edwin Stanton. Her cousin, snippy that she is has her cap set on Edwin. Titles and money are very important to the members of the Timpton House party, more important than true love. Which is sad to see. There is a lot going on but not too much that it was hard to keep track of and it definitely leads me to believe a sequel will follow as many of the characters could do well with their own story. I eagerly look forward to more books by this debut author. If you enjoyed Edenbrooke by Julianne Donaldson, then this is just the book for you.

Published January 18th 2019

I received a complimentary copy of this book. Thank you. All opinions expressed are my own.

Nari says

This is a great book. I loved the depth to the characters. The storyline was engaging. It had some twists I didn't see coming. I loved the development of the romance. This is amazing for an author's first book. I can't wait to read more of her books.

Alisa says

Abigail reluctantly joins her aunt and cousins at a house party at Timpton House, the estate of the Stanton family. Abigail is a great beauty who is better at eavesdropping than needlepoint or playing the pianoforte. She has a huge secret which could make her shunned by others if it were to be discovered. Her Aunt Marianne, who knows her entire secret, can't stand her and is cruel to her.

Edwin Stanton does not give a great first impression. He is courting Abigail's cousin Helena. But Edwin and Abigail seem to end up together a lot - largely in part because of Edwin's scheming sister Diana. Aunt Marianne is not happy with how things are playing out and will stop at nothing to stop Edwin and Abigail

from forming an attachment to each other.

This is Jess Heileman's first novel, and I am excited for her to write more! Edwin and Abigail were easy to love and cheer for, and there was a host of secondary characters who were also fun to get to know!

Content: Very clean

Source: Advanced Reader Copy (opinion is 100% my own)

Jane says

Abigail was one of those books I had a hard time putting down. Jess Heileman pulled me in with her characterization and plot development. Parts of the ending were far from what I expected when I started reading the book.

Abigail Blakeslee has been attempting to avoid her "first season." Her mother died and her father and older brother have struggled somewhat to help Abigail in her societal obligations. Her brother insists their father send her to Timpton House to participate in a society gathering at the invitation of her aunt. Her cousins will attend as well and it is expected that cousin Helene will be announced as the intended of Edwin Stanton - heir of the Timpton House.

Abigail knows she is not like other society young ladies. Her mother instilled in her a desire to help those less fortunate, even when she was the Lady of an estate. While visiting Timpton House she comes in contact with a poor family who has just lost the father and the mother has fallen ill, leaving an eight-year-old boy to care for his 4 younger sisters. Abigail is quick to jump in to help - additional help arrives from an unlikely source.

Edwin is a moody sort of person. Yet, at times, another side of him comes to the surface. His married sister Diana is able to bring out the best in him. She befriends Abigail and becomes a bit of a match-maker even though Abigail insists she is not interested - after all Helene is intent on becoming his intended.

I don't want to share too many details of the story as there are some wonderful surprises sprinkled throughout the book, especially toward the end. I love it when there are surprises in a book that catch me off guard - this book contains that kind of surprise.

Jess Heileman appears to have researched the time period well. Her plot line is very convincing and her characters are realistic. While some of the plot is predictable - it is a romance after all - she included unanticipated plot twists which make the book more compelling to finish. She has been added to my list of favorite authors. I look forward to reading more from her.

I received an advanced e-copy of the book from I Am A Reader in exchange for this honest review.

Christina says

5+ Stars!!

I finished this book in one day- I'm still reeling and picking it up to re-read favorite parts. This is without a doubt one of the best regency romances I have read in quite some time! It's still hard to believe this is the author's first novel- I hope she continues to write more because this book is a gift.

The protagonist, Abigail, had me rooting for her from the start. She is kind, witty, independent, smart, and not afraid to stand up for her beliefs. I loved seeing her grow and blossom throughout the story. There was so much more to her than first meets the eye, and I loved reading from her perspective.

Don't get me started on Edwin- he was such a perfect hero, with his own faults, misunderstandings, handsome-but-rare-smiles, and a deeply rooted kindness. His interactions with Abigail were my favorite! So much romantic tension had my toes curling and reading long into the night.

This was an incredible regency novel, with endearing supporting characters, a unique and heartfelt story, and a clean yet swoon-worthy romance. I can't wait to see what the author writes next!!!!

Katie W says

I love a delicious story full of conflicting personalities, hidden secrets, and a budding romance, and this one is just that. Abigail has had a hard life and this new situation that she's almost unwillingly thrust into is a challenge. It's refreshing for the times to see her hold true to herself and not to lose herself in the expectations of society.

Abigail is such a darling protagonist and has no qualms about helping those around her, especially the Bragg family is who struggling and down on their luck. I adored her and her selfless, sweet, and strong personality. Edwin is an enigma, but he quickly grew on me and I found myself eagerly anticipating their interactions, especially as he often found Abigail in compromising predicaments.

I loved the little triangles of relationships that emerged and really enjoyed the twists that popped up, completely taking me by surprise. I'm quite surprised that Heileman is a debut author, as I found this to be a very entertaining and engaging story. My emotions and attention were held hostage for several hours and I'm looking forward to more stories by this author!

Content: mild descriptions of violence; mild romance; very mild religion

I received a complimentary copy. All opinions expressed are my own and were voluntarily given.

Kathy says

LOVED THIS ONE!! Found a new favorite author! Add this to your to-read shelf! This book is proof that a debut author can self publish a book worth reading! Well done!!

Coming January 22nd.

Content: clean

Cheryl-Lynn says

4.5 stars

Abigail sucked me in from the first page and I had a hard time putting it down. A sweet Regency romance with all the back and forth love vs duty inherent in this type of book- which helps make them one of my favorite! The characters are well developed and believable. I immediately related to Abigail and loved following her in her various interactions with the different gentleman at the house. Her kindness and curiosity were enduring. There were a few twists that make the book unique. I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good, clean Regency romance.

Andrea says

Jess Heileman did a very nice job with her debut novel, Abigail. I'm a sucker for characters that don't fit the mold, and Abigail was just such a character. Her good heart was very endearing, as was her relationship with her father and brother (although most of that is from a distance in this story, we get a very good feel for it). Her loyalty was also notable, especially because it meant sacrificing her own happiness.

I liked the banter between the main characters, and the goodness in many of the characters-caring more about helping others than what society would think.

I'm not sure if I got impatient for the end, but it started to go on a bit long for me. There was a reveal that was soap opera-esque, but it has a happy ending (a must have for me).

Abigail is a clean and enjoyable read. I look forward to reading more from this author.

*I received an advanced reader copy of this book.

Maria Thomas says

4.5 stars

I quite enjoyed this book. This is the authors only book listed on good reads and I find it remarkable that this could be a first book. I had so many questions come to mind during my reading which eventually all got answered but they weren't all obvious from the start. And while we knew from the start how the romance would end there were some twists and turns in there that I didn't see coming at all. The one solid predictable was that Abigail and Edwin would end up together. All the rest was a fun ride.

I think I was as confused by Edwin's behavior as Abigail often was. He was so hot then cold, sweet then angry all the time and it wasn't obvious to us why. At least not at first. So it is no surprise that Abigail couldn't figure out his true feelings until he spoke them aloud. I always like strong females that don't follow the norm in society and Abigail was definitely one of those.

I loved Diana. So mischievous in her matchmaking and on occasion dragged her husband along for the ride. They were both delightful and charming. I also loved Uncle Stanton. He was also a delight. Aunt Marianne, Helena and Hannah reminded me much of Cinderella's wicked stepmother and stepsisters. The aunt and one cousin were so very unpleasant. The other cousin wasn't unpleasant but pretty much went along with whatever got dished out so she wasn't a lot of help to Abigail either.

It was possibly a little slow in the middle where I thought perhaps there was too much of nothing new happening but it didn't decrease my enjoyment overall.

Sex: some kisses

Language: no

Violence: no

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

Kindle freebie Regency romance, of the sweet and clean variety. If you're a fan of *Edenbrooke* and ingenue heroines, give this one a try.

3.5 stars. I do think it borrows too many plot concepts from *Edenbrooke* (which this author read and rated 5 stars). You have a young, goodhearted heroine whose mother has died, sent off on a lengthy visit to someone else's home, where she meets an attractive man who (it's clear to everyone but the heroine) is very interested in her, but she's determined not to return the interest because a beautiful and more confident relative of hers (a cousin in this case) has prior dibs on him ... you get the idea. The main differences are that the hero here is harder to warm up to than Phillip in *Edenbrooke* (I think he's intended to have a bit more of the stand-offish Darcy vibe to him) and Abigail, the heroine, is carrying a deep, dark secret that she doesn't want anyone to know. There's also a fun character in the form of the hero's married sister, who connives and jumps through all sorts of hoops to try to get her brother together with Abigail.

Even if it's derivative, it was charming reading for a light, sweet Regency romance. Recommended only to those who love this genre and aren't too hardcore about period accuracy. It's self-published and I caught a few grammatical errors (example: "Though **her** and Mother were sisters ..." Yes, I am a grammar stickler), but overall the writing quality was pretty good.

And I'm happy to report there was no twirling.
