



A Bride for Tom

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Tom Larson is having trouble finding a wife, and Jessica Reynolds decides to help him overcome his awkward and clumsy manners so he can attract women. This historical romantic comedy is rated G.

A Bride for Tom Details

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From Reader Review A Bride for Tom for online ebook

Roseanne Wilkins says

This is exactly what it is advertised to be. As a short historical romance, it's a charming bit a fluff that left me with a satisfying ending. Definitely one I would hand over to my daughters. I plan on reading other books by Ruth Ann Nordin.

Judy says

Book 2: A Bride for Tom

Jessica Reynolds is engaged to Peter, although when you meet his mother you may think she is engaged to both of them! While at a dance she feels pity for Tom Larson. He is so clumsy and all the girls refuse to dance with him, so Jessica decides she will. All is going well until Tom's cuff gets tangled into Jessica's hair and she has to cut her precious hair shorter than she likes.

Tom gets ribbed for his clumsiness yet again, especially from his youngest brother, Joel. Tom brings Jessica some gifts as an apology and she decides to help him out so he will be less clumsy and be able to get a wife. Jessica offers to teach him how to dance.

Of course, everyone...even Joel... knows that Jessica is engaged, Tom does not know and his hopes rise that she could be his wife. Your heart just goes out to Tom as he is such a sweet kind soul, he just gets nervous around women and then clumsy.

Jessica finds herself thinking of Tom more and more. Mostly when her eyes are opened to the fact that Peter does everything to please his mother and she is taking over Jessica's wedding more and more. Making it her special day rather than Jessica's.

Will Jessica see what true love is before she says "I do" to the wrong man? *Rated G

LadyCalico says

I read A Bride for Tom and A Husband for Margaret on the same night as if they were one story, but I think I enjoyed Margaret's story just a tad more. I found the writing style a bit Mickey Mouse at first, but as the story and character development continued I got interested enough to look past it. What I loved about both these stories was the bold, strong-willed, straight forward personalities of both heroines--they made more sense and just seemed more capable of logical thought than your average stupid romance heroine. I hate novels that have to do with "secrets" and "misunderstandings" taken to ridiculous idiotic extremes, that spend 200 pages wheel-spinning just because the protagonists cannot communicate like semi-sane human beings and for no good reason just don't spit out what any normal person in those circumstances would say. These two women said what they meant and meant what they said and went straight after what they wanted--what a refreshing change from the usual hokey, contrived romance novel. The reason I didn't like A Bride for Tom as much as the sequel was that I thought the early descriptions of Tom's klutziness were taken too much to extreme and this would have been a better novel if the author had toned it down to a more realistic level. The first dance lesson was a real weak point of the story, and Tom's acting like an idiot because he thought Peter and Margaret were watching made no sense and was merely ridiculous and awkward. I think many readers would stop at that point, but afterwards the author does tone it down and makes Tom more human and then

the novella does get much better.

Nubia Sanchez says

This one is simply my favorite by Ruth Ann Nordin because it show that this two character were meant for each other. Jessica helps out Tom, who is finding a bride, by getting rid of his clumsiness and shyness yet Jessica unexpectedly starts to love him while helping him out. I really love the plot and the character. I must read it again.

Becky says

I read this just because it was free on my new gadget. It was a clean book but very boring and I need to figure out how to erase it because I don't want to see it again.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

A very cute, sweet, short story about Tom finding love!

Hanna Krivinchuk says

I thought this book was really cute. I was really surprised that Tom kissed Jessica first with how clumsy Tom was, and how inexperienced he was when it came to girls. I am happy that Jessica got rid of Peter, because he was 'lame sauce.' I somewhat relate to this book in a way because I was in a relationship that I wasn't happy with and now I have found an amazing man, I get that butterfly feeling every time I am around him, and we have been together for a year now. I relate to Jessica a lot because she knows what she wants in life and so do I and it may be hard to realize that at first, but once you figure things out, life gets so much better, especially once you are happy.

Melody says

This was a really nice, sweet story. But I would have enjoyed it even more if it wasn't so out of sync with the first in the series. 1) This book occurs 1 1/2 years after the first book yet everyone is 3 years older. I guess people really did grow up faster in the olden days. 2) In the first book Tom's parents let his sister Sally elope with a man she has known less than a month and only talked to 4 or 5 times. His mother doesn't even want to be at the wedding of her oldest daughter. Her father doesn't care about giving her away. In this one (a year later) Tom's dad cautions him not to rush into marriage because it is a lifetime decision. They encourage him to wait a year. 3) This book unlike its prequel is also totally clean. This is not a short-coming it is just strange when the previous book has very descriptive sex. A series should be consistent for its target audience.

Ashlee says

I thought this book was cute, what with Tom being a clutz and Jessica not, it was over all good. I thought it was a little rushed though, as far as the romance goes--Jessica and Tom kissed(like, a serious one)not long after they met each other, and then they got married much too quickly. But, nonetheless, it was cute.

Side note: Please, please, please do not read A Husband For Margaret!!!!!!!!!!!! I started reading this book, totally drawn in by the whole widower with four boys thing, but as I got further into the book and Margaret and Joseph get married, their "wedding night" is very, very detailed and highly inappropriate!!!! I didn't even read the whole thing, and I was horrified!! I thought this was a Christian author, but if her writing says anything about that, it's that she's not!! I tell you, I was so shocked, my body was shaking and I couldn't stop crying; I'm fourteen! I didn't expect that, and my mom hadn't read it, so who knew?? Please, I read the first one, but if I could go back and not read it, I would do that, just to show I don't at all support this author.

Dawn says

++Spoilers++

3.5 stars

Cute short and sweet.

This is Tom and Jessica's story.

Tom gets very nervous around women he doesn't know, and ends up bumbling, tripping, breaking things, and is pretty much a disaster waiting to happen. Jessica is engaged to Peter, but feels bad for Tom and decides to help him.

Peter is a momma's boy and his momma is overbearing. This becomes clearer to Jessica as she starts to take an interest in Tom.

Long story short, Jessica ends her engagement with Peter and marries Tom. Giving up a comfortable life in town to move with Tom into his sod house on the farm,

A few things I'd like to note:

1. I've tagged this as both MC's being virgins even though it's not really spelled out. Tom sort of mentions how his first time with Jessica is "more wonderful than he ever imagined." Not to mention this authors style or view is that sex before marriage is a no no. Works great for me!
2. If you read Wagon Trail Bride #1, there is a bit of an inconsistency between these two books. In that Tom is interested in a "Becky." So I was expecting the heroine of this book to be "Becky" not Jessica. A bit odd since no girls in this book care for Tom and in fact avoid him due to his awkwardness.
3. This is a very short, sweet simple read, and novella to boot. It's only 100 pages.

I liked it, but as with most novellas I wanted more.

I plan to skip the next two books in this series due to personal preference (one has a widower with 4 sons, and the other is about an unattractive heroine). I may come back to read "Eye of the Beholder" (with the unattractive heroine) because so many reviewers say it is really good, but I am just not in the mood for such an emotional read at this time.

Safety:

Hero & Heroine - Implied virgins (see above)

Cheating-No

OM/OW- Heroine is engaged to another. Breaks the engagement. Never loved him

Violence-No

Cursing-No

Sex- Yes, one time at the end. Detailed.

Adultery-No

Rape-No

Abuse-No

Marriage- yes

Baby-No

HEA/ILY's yes to both

Goddess Of Blah says

A funny, romantic and cute love story

If you're looking for a *bodice ripper* then you won't appreciate this.

If you're looking a steamy novel with the *cliché wealthy neanderthal rapist* (also known as a cliché Alpha Male) and poor, feeble-minded waiting to be saved heroine than this isn't for you.

The book does lack historical content and the dialogue ought to portray the era it was set in, but otherwise no major problems. I've read far worse dialogue by American authors writing historical fiction set in the UK (the worst kind).

The Characters

Tom is a nervous, gauche, 20 year old farmer. He stumbles with everything - words, motions and ideas. He's a simple farm boy - who is brilliant at working in "manly" work and in harsh conditions (farming didn't come with tractors and so forth back then). Hence, he's very manly but women never see this side of him. We first encounter him being rejected by the fair folk due to his unsophisticated conduct, lack of genteel manners and nervous disposition that causes him to become a liability (he knocks things over, causes damage in his wake). However, despite all that - he's genuine and without airs and graces - he's honest. He's not the darkly brooding dashing cavalier of a swashbuckling romance - but a ordinary guy.

Jessica is a sweet genteel girl. She's the most popular girl in town and all the bachelors are keen. She's engaged to Peter because his mother finds her a suitable candidate. When she meets Tom, she only wants to help him. However, along the way she realises that he's the real man and Peter for all his flash credentials and charm is a mummy's boy.

Then there's the remaining family members who are all really engaging characters - Jessica's mother, Tom's funny brothers and even Peter's mother.

I hope we have a story for Joel and Dave. Joel is hilarious.

Although this is a sweet novel - it's not sickly sweet. Or gushing with heartfelt declarations. **No cringe worthy "I die for you"** rubbish. It's not a melodramatic tale of love and woe. It's a romcom more like Sweet Home Alabama.

Lacey says

Just loved it nothing more to say :)

Fiona says

I don't often read historical romances and if it hadn't been a free download I probably wouldn't have read this one either and that would have been a shame. I enjoyed this book, it was quick and easy to read and I read it in one evening.

The story and old fashioned courting reminded me of "These Happy Golden Years" by Laura Ingalls Wilder which is the penultimate book in the Little House on the Prairie series when Almanzo Wilder is courting Laura Ingalls.

I'm now going to have to download a Husband for Margaret to see what happens to Jessica's best friend.

Mojca says

This was the first book by this author I read, and, since I have a few of them on my eReader, it won't be the last. It took a while to get used to the narrative style, and even longer to warm up to the heroine, but eventually I did, and when that happened I found myself enjoying this little story.

Initially I disliked Jessica, so worried about appearances, dismissing Tom as a "bumbling idiot", because everybody else thought so. She appeared shallow, haughty, and conceited, but eventually changed tune and became quite likable.

I didn't care for the author's portrayal of Tom at the beginning, either, since she made him appear clumsy...But once his clumsiness was explained both me and Jessica started looking at him with different eyes.

Granted, this story takes a while to "get to you", but once every above-mentioned hurdle was crossed, it turned out to be a rather good read, with some added stereotypes about matrons and their outlook on the world (that hasn't changed that much since 1868). ;)

I'm looking forward to reading the sequel, A Husband for Margaret. Margaret, Jessica's friend, deserves what's coming to her.

Aerykah says

This book is..... Extremely silly and not at all believable.

It's supposed to be historical fiction, yet part of it felt historic and other parts felt more modern. I kept having to kinda remind myself that I wasn't reading a contemporary story.

The characters were mostly just annoying. I didn't really like any of them.

The story was rather abrupt and progressed much too quickly for my taste.

Overall, I simply did not enjoy this story at all.
