



# Too Rich for a Bride

*Mona Hodgson*

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**Too Rich for a Bride** Mona Hodgson

**With a head more suited to bookkeeping than a bridal veil, Ida's dreams include big business--not beaus.**

Ida Sinclair has joined her sisters, Kat and Nell, in the untamed mining town of Cripple Creek, Colorado for one reason: to work for the infamous but undeniably successful businesswoman Mollie O'Bryan. Ida's sisters may be interested in making a match for their determined older sister, but Ida only wants to build her career.

Under Mollie's tutelage, Ida learns how to play the stock market and revels in her promising accomplishments. Fighting for respect in a man's world, her ambition leaves little room for distractions. She ignores her family's reservations about Mollie O'Bryan's business practices, but no matter how she tries, she can't ignore the two men pursuing her affections—Colin Wagner, the dashing lawyer, and Tucker Raines, the traveling preacher.

Ida wants a career more than anything else, so she shrugs off the suitors and pointed “suggestions” that young ladies don't belong in business. Will it take unexpected love—or unexpected danger—for Ida to realize where her priorities truly lie?

## Too Rich for a Bride Details

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# From Reader Review Too Rich for a Bride for online ebook

## Aerykah says

I really enjoyed this. I liked the story the first time around, but I think I enjoyed listening to it even more. :)

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## Andrea says

Good message of being obedient to God's will even tho we think we have other plans. This was a good book.

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## Pam says

Did not enjoy as much as the first in the series.

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## Emily says

This was not a bad book -- it was okay. I didn't even know it was the second book in a series until I came to Goodreads to rate it. So obviously it was not hard to follow what had happened in the first book. It was easy to join in with the characters. I had three main problems with this book -- 1. It was predictable, 2. It was cheesy and 3. It was hitting you over the head with religion. So we'll take these one at a time.

Predictable: it's difficult to get into this without giving away the ending, but suffice it to say that the way it ended was exactly the way I thought it would end. When I read the liner notes, not just when I started reading the book. So that was disappointing. The 'twists & turns' along the way weren't very convincing and I still felt like I knew exactly where the plot was going.

Cheesy: This is a completely subjective thing. Sometimes a book just has to hit you at the right time, or one thing will turn you off of it. With that said, here's a quote that really was the tip of the cheesy iceberg for me:

"...he'd stirred her heart long before she knew the depth of his pain. Before she'd seen the strength of his character. And sitting beside him now in comfortable silence, watching two ravens gliding on a wind current, only served to strengthen the stirring in her heart."

When I read that, I rolled my eyes. I may have even groaned. I mean no disrespect to the author; I think that for another reader, this would've been a really enjoyable read. Unfortunately, that reader wasn't me.

Lastly, my number 3 complaint: hitting me over the head with religion. This may be unfair, as it is a Christian Historical Fiction novel. However, I prefer religion & the religious beliefs of the characters to be a subtext rather than another theme of the book. Speaking about religious beliefs is so often divisive & can easily fall into the cheesy territory, rather than the true and sincere faith that is surely being portrayed.

With all of the that negativity, I do have to say that I loved the author's descriptions of Cripple Creek. It

sounded beautiful & made me want to visit; I felt like I could really visualize this Gold Rush town in my head. I also strongly identified with the sisters' relationships: I have 3 sisters of my own & know how close that relationship is, and I felt like the author did a great job portraying what it's like to be sisters as grown women. I appreciated Ida's drive towards business, and that she wanted something for herself besides falling in love.

In summary, I think this would be a great book for the reader who generally likes Christian fiction. I have rarely enjoyed Christian fiction of any kind (even though I am Christian), and was hoping this would buck the trend. Unfortunately, for me, that wasn't the case.

*WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group provided this book to me for free in exchange for this honest review as part of their Blogging for Books program.*

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### **Nicole says**

I enjoyed this one more than the first in the series. I like the sweetness and simplicity of the stories, and I appreciate that none of the misunderstandings or hiccups are drawn out. The characters communicate and I love it - LOL! Looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

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### **Camille says**

From my blog, A Book A Day: <http://books-camilleelise4.blogspot.com>

Too Rich For A Bride by Mona Hodgson

I received a copy of this book from WaterBrook Multnomah through their Blogging For Books program. I am under no obligation to write a positive review, just an honest one.

Too Rich For A Bride is the second book in the Sinclair Sisters of Cripple Creek series. I have not read the first book in the series, and while one can still read Too Rich For A Bride without reading the first book in the series first, I personally wish that I had started from the beginning. I feel like there are aspects of the second book that would have been more complete.

Too Rich For A Bride mainly follows the story of Ida Sinclair who has just finished business school (though it was a really shaky ending when her professor tried to push himself upon her in a manner unbecoming to any lady).

Ida makes the decision to move to Cripple Creek to join her two sisters already living there, Kat and Nell (the first book is clearly about the move that Kat and Nell make to Cripple Creek). But Ida is determined to be more than just a wife. Ida wants to make a name for herself in the business world, which is not really too easy for a woman during the late 1800s.

She has no intention of finding a husband, and wants to put her education to good use, so she acquires a job with Mollie O'Bryan, another woman making a name for herself in the business world. They get mixed

reception from the men in the town: some fully approve of women in the business world and work closely with them, such as the handsome attorney Colin Wagner, and others do not, such as other stock traders who believe women should not be involved in the stock market.

But, while Ida may have caught Colin's eye, she cannot help but notice the traveling preacher, Tucker Raines, who has come to Cripple Creek to take over his father's ice box business when his father is too ill to keep the business running.

Yet Tucker has a dark past, and ties which keep him bound to California, and likely to return when he can get his father's business organized to run without his presence, though some in the town are not accepting of Tucker letting a black man, Otis, help run so much of the business. And Colin may be hiding some dark secrets of his own.

Will Ida stick to her guns, and refuse to be made a match with Colin or Tucker? Or does God have a different plan in store for her: can she be both a wife and a business woman?

Read Too Rich For A Bride to find out!

I thought this was a cute and sweet book. I think I would have enjoyed it more had I read the first book in the series more because I had some unanswered questions about Kat and Nell and I would have liked to get to know them better since they are not the most prominent characters in this book.

There were also a few points in the book that I almost felt like the author was saying that she agreed women shouldn't be in the business world. While that wasn't the ultimate outcome in the book, and I do not think Mona Hodgson has anything against working women, I think the storyline almost made it come off that way at a few points.

If I have the chance I may go back and read book number one, and if there is a third book I may read that too, but it isn't at the top of my list.

3 out of 5 stars.

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## Sally says

**With a head more suited to bookkeeping than a bridal veil, Ida's dreams include a big business – not beaus.**

The Gold Rush came to Cripple Creek, Colorado, in 1890. Six years later, Ida Sinclair arrives in the town where two of her younger sisters now reside. Ida wants to go into business, but that isn't a popular choice for a woman in the late 1800s. Ever determined, Ida is employed by Cripple Creek businesswoman, Mollie O'Bryan. She learns a lot, makes money, and tries to ignore her family's reservations about Mollie's business practices. Two men also appear in her life; traveling preacher Tucker Raines, and Colin Wagner who is a lawyer and business associate. Family and friends want to match make, but Ida isn't interested. Or so she tries to convince herself.

Ida came to Colorado from Portland, Maine, where an unfortunate situation has taught her not to trust men. Raines and Wagner, however, are breaking through her self-imposed boundaries. Wagner claims to

understand her determination to succeed in business, but Raines is a genuinely good man. One is a church deacon; the other has no time for God due to a family tragedy. If Ida has to choose between them, which one is the better option? Which man can she trust?

Too Rich For A Bride is what I would call 'an easy read.' It is the second in a series, but it reads well as a stand alone. It is also beautifully descriptive of early Cripple Creek. Because of that, the series receives praise from the Cripple Creek District Museum. *"Ms. Hodgson has managed to capture the true history of Cripple Creek while telling a story that may very well 'might have been.' The town's historic character is winningly spun into the saga of the Sinclair girls, giving readers as [sic] wonderful grasp of life in a boomtown over a century ago."* For me, it was also fascinating to discover that Mollie O'Bryan really did exist and was a pioneering businesswoman in the town.

A Readers' Guide is included.

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Pages: 312

Note: I received this book from Waterbrook Multnomah's Blogging for Books program.

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## **Lindsay says**

Ida Sinclair is headed to Cripple Creek. She must first graduate from Business school. There someone that tries and mess that up with her. Her professor see her skills and is intruding and asks Ida to meet him at his office to chat after she done with her duties.

Ida just want a job in the business world? Will she get it in New York or will she go to Cripple Creek? That her plan to go to Cripple Creek to be with her sisters Nell and Kat along. Her father want he to. Her little sister Vivian is to join them the next summer.

Tucker Raines is asked to come to Cripple Creek by his mother. He arrives a day or so before Ida Sinclair. He left his sister to come help out. He finds out his father is ill and he got to take over the family business "The Raines Ice Company". Tucker finds that having his mother and father stay in Colorado Springs so that his father can stay at the hospital is the best option and care.

Tucker finds out what the real reason and his father is in debt. How will Tucker pull his family business out of debt but also pay for his sister Willow care as well. Tucker runs into Ida Sinclair for the first time at the depot with his mother and father.

There are surprises as you turn the pages. What will happen to Tucker and Ida? Mona get you hooked and you can't be let go. You also learn about the Cripple Creek around that time period in history.

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## **Rachel Brand says**

Ida Sinclair has no intention to find a husband when she moves to Cripple Creek, the town where her sisters,

Nell and Kat, discovered true love and settled down to start their families. Instead, Ida is keen to make a name for herself in the business world, working for the infamous Mollie O'Bryan. Mollie might have some practices that Ida's family disapproves of, but Ida is impressed by her achievements in a profession dominated by men. But despite her attempts to immerse herself in the world of business and to ignore the matchmaking efforts of her sisters and her landlady, Ida finds herself torn between the affections of two men. Colin Wagner, a successful lawyer, and Tucker Raines, a preacher who has returned to Cripple Creek to help out with his ailing father's business, find themselves drawn to the feisty, independent Ida. But will Ida tear herself away from her new job long enough to notice the attentions of these two men? And if she does, how will she know which man is right for her?

Although I've not yet had the chance to read the first book in the Sinclair Sisters of Cripple Creek series, I can honestly say that this is a series you can jump right into and feel at home with. Mona has an excellent way of creating a family unit around her main character, not only with Ida's sisters and their husbands, but also the wonderful matchmaking landlady, Miss Hattie, who became a second mother to the girls when they moved to Cripple Creek, and eventually Tucker Raines. At the end of the book we briefly meet the youngest Sinclair sister, Vivian, and Tucker's sister, Willow, who I hope will feature in the next book in the series. These are definitely characters that you don't want to leave after one book, and I may even go back and read *Two Brides Too Many*.

While I loved the cast of characters in this book, I have to say that the plot wasn't the strongest one I'd encountered in a historical romance. Ida's desire to be a businesswoman was definitely unique, and I loved that Mona showed her readers that you can have both a career and a family. I have to admit that I really have no idea how stocks work, so I was slightly lost during the sections where Ida and Mollie discussed their work. There was a sense of mystery surrounding Mollie and her work and her relationship with Colin Wagner, and although I was happy with the outcome of this little mystery the climax came very suddenly and almost out of nowhere, and left me feeling that there hadn't been enough of a build up to it. Although I realise that the mystery was essential in Ida choosing between her two beaux, it seemed to get side-lined slightly in order to focus on the romance.

Like most romance readers, I could figure out who Ida was going to choose from very early on in the book, but this didn't spoil my enjoyment of the story. I loved seeing the relationship between Ida and Tucker developing, and their difficulties in overcoming the boundaries that they were certain were between them. I actually feel that I related to Tucker a lot more than Ida, and maybe this is because I'm not so confident and career-driven as Ida is. Tucker also had an interesting back-story, which gently unfolded as the plot developed. I did find the conclusion of Tucker's problems with his family to be a bit sudden and perhaps a bit too convenient, but otherwise I'd have to say that he was my favourite character in the whole book.

*Too Rich for a Bride* isn't one of my favourites out of the historical romances I've read so far this year, but it's definitely a sweet, enjoyable read. As this is only Mona's second addition to the world of historical romances, I can definitely see her writing improving in the future and maybe even coming to rival some of the stars of the genre. If you're a fan of historical novels set in the era of westward expansion, but wish your heroines were a bit more self-sufficient and interested in more than just romance and babies, then *Too Rich for a Bride* is definitely one to check out. 7/10

Review title provided courtesy of Waterbrook Press.

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## **Paula-O says**

"Too Rich for a Bride", book @2 of the series Sinclair Sisters of Cripple Creek.

I enjoyed reading this series as I have 5 sisters and know a little about sisters....

Ida Sinclair is the older one always giving advise and watching out like a mother hen over her sisters- well she really had to as they lost their Mother at a young age. I think this makes her decide to become a business woman when she is grown, she would rather think business then beaus...Ida travels to Cripple Creek where two other sisters have gone to meet husbands to marry, Yes Kat and Nell were going to be mail-order brides but things went awry in book @1.

Now Ida wishes to learn the business world from Molly O'Bryan that her sister has written her about and just knows they will get along well.

Both Kat and Nell eventually found good upstanding young men to marry and have good lives in the thriving community of Cripple Creek. It is a beautiful area sitting at the base of majestic mountains.

Upon her arrival Ida soon has two men vying for her attention, one an attorney and another a traveling preacher who is working an ice company to help his ailing father, this woman who has no interest in men seems to have caught the interest of two for her. Will this change her idea of becoming a business woman?

Tucker the traveling preacher comes to cripple creek at almost the same time as Ida because his father is ill and help is needed to keep the ice company thriving. This man has a heart for the Lord and speaks to him occasionally aloud in the streets and usually Ida is always somewhere nearby to hear him. She greatly respects him and that is surely a good beginning.

There are many ups and downs in Ida's business world as she learns from Molly and takes to Wall street like a duck to water..

Tucker has his ups and downs in learning how to make a go of his fathers ice company but has the help of a trusted employee "Otis" who has a passel of children to raise.

Ida is taken by the business world and is soon right in the middle of a castastrophe that her new lawyer friend without knowlege of many, has a few shady deals that Ida gets caught up in, can she see what is happening or will he waltz her down a lane she needs not to travel?

Mona has adventure along with romance in this story and this community is filled with loving folks that help one another and care about one another. I esp liked the character Miss Hattie, who runs the boarding house and though she never had children and lost her husband years ago I think she treats her boarders as family and everyone likes coming home to Miss Hattie's place for a good home cooked meal and great fellowship....this is one series that you will want to read and enjoy.

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## **Josephine says**

The love of money. It was a sweet read.

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## **Latifa Al-kaabi says**

I finished reading this book without being aware that it was the second book of The Sinclair sister of Cripple Creek series. I love how modest the book is, straight forward.

The characters are well chosen as well, although i hated some aspects of each character.

I give it 4.25 out of 5

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## **Book Him Danno says**

This is a cute sweet christian romance. The story took a bit to get started, but it kept up a good pace. I enjoyed the sweet romantic bits and even the quoting of scriptures here and there. I'm not a huge christian romance reader, I do enjoy Linda Howard and Nora Roberts, but if you are looking for a clean romance with a sweet story this may be the book for you.

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## **Loraine says**

This second in the set of novels about the Sinclar Sisters of Cripple Creek continues with the story of Kat and Nell Sinclair who are both now married and are joined by their sister Ida as she moves from Maine to Colorado. Ida's focus is on becoming a business woman and she doesn't have room in her life for men or love. But God has a way of changing her focus through a traveling preacher and some nefarious deeds by the woman she begins working for.

I liked the character development in both Tucker and Ida and enjoyed seeing their lives change as they allowed God to direct them.

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## **Courtney says**

This is the second book in The Sinclair Sisters of Cripple Creek series. I read the first one but I think that this one can be read as a stand-alone book as well. Ida is the oldest of the Sinclair sisters and she finally sets out to move to Colorado to be with sisters Nell and Kat. Unlike Nell and Kat, Ida isn't searching for a husband in Colorado but she is searching for success. She wants to be a businesswoman despite all the people opposed to that. She finds lots of opportunities in Cripple Creek to test her knowledge and to test her heart!

There are lots of the things to love about this book. It was nice to catch up with the sisters Nell and Kat from book one and to hear how their lives are going. The secondary characters are in this book as well and they are still just as quirky and delightful as before, I especially like Hattie, the old matchmaker and off-key singer!

Ida is a great character as well; I love how she is determined to make it in a man's world, yet she doesn't let anyone push her around, she stands up for her values. She is just as stubborn as the other two Sinclair sisters.

Now, what I don't like about this book is the lack of development. I felt the characters could have been more developed, especially Tucker. I knew him and like him but I wanted to LOVE him. There just was a lack of

connection for me. I didn't connect with the story that much and overall didn't really feel that moved! Another pet-peeve of mine is that there was romance, but not that much of it and no kissing...none! This of course is my personal opinion but I feel that a good romance has to have a lot of romantic developments and some kissing...cleanly done of course.

Overall, I do think that was an easy, simple and enjoyable read and I think the majority of Christian romance readers would enjoy this even though I didn't quite connect with the story. There is still a lot to like and therefore I do recommend it!

I received this book for free from WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group for this honest review.

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