



The Importance of Being Scandalous

Kimberly Bell

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A horse race *in trousers* on Rotten Row. Visiting a gaming hall in a dress that would make her mother faint. Sneaking an invitation to a masquerade ball attended by only the wickedest, most debauched members of society...

None of these things are scaring off bookish but strong-willed Amelia Bishop's stuffy, egotistical fiancé.

The only thing left is to entice childhood friend Nicholas Wakefield into a truly engagement-ending scandal. The Wakefields are the height of propriety, and Nicholas's parents have made it clear a wife from the neighboring Bishop family would be unacceptable...

But Nicholas would give up his family *and* his fortune if Amelia would ever see him as more than just a childhood friend. He'll go along with her scheme, even if it means ruining them both, because he's got a plan that will change her mind about him being merely the boy next door.

The Importance of Being Scandalous Details

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Author : Kimberly Bell

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From Reader Review The Importance of Being Scandalous for online ebook

Jean says

I really love Nicholas and Amelia's story of childhood sweethearts separated by the social mores of the time. Amelia is the younger daughter of a wealthy merchant/minor noble whose older sister Julia was born with a birth defect. Consequently, the girls are viewed as "tainted goods". Amelia is sweet and beautiful, Julia even more so, and they're both smart as whips. Amelia finds herself betrothed to an Earl she barely knows and doesn't love her. Her best friend and childhood sweetheart, Nick, is called home from abroad to help manage the family estates. Nicholas' family have been peers of the realm for centuries and are confronted with the issue of his father's growing dementia. Nick is a second son and expected to clean up the mess and keep a lid on the family's secret. He has also finally come to grips with his love for Amelia and plans on asking for her hand, only to find out that she is essentially betrothed to someone else. The titular scandal revolves around Amelia's scheme to break the engagement and remain a spinster. She doesn't dare to hope to marry Nicholas.

Things I like about this book

I enjoyed getting to know the main characters. Their lifelong friendship and love felt genuine and sweet. They were a couple I could root for. Overall, the story was an interesting twist on the typical tropes you see in the genre.

Things that bothered me

I wish Julia's character had been developed more. She was extremely interesting and I really wanted to know more about her. I hope that she has her own book because this girl really deserves her own story. The character of Amelia's fiancé the Earl needed to be developed more. He was the villain of the piece but it was never really explained why to my satisfaction. If I'm supposed to "hate" someone explain to me why am hating this person other than the fact that he's not the hero/love interest that the heroine is supposed to end up with at the end.

All in all, The Importance of Being Scandalous was a lovely diversion for a rainy afternoon.

An ARC was provided to OMG Reads in return for an honest review.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING SCANDALOUS" by Kimberly Bell is the First Book in the new series "Tale of Two Sisters Series ". This story is about Amelia Bishop and Nicholas Wakefield.

Amelia and Nicholas have been friends and neighbors since they were young. Secretly they both love each other but have never express those feelings. Then Nicholas went away for his "Grand Tour" but now he is back after being gone for a few years. But Nicholas feared he is back to late because Amelia is engaged to someone else. Amelia does not want to be engaged and tries about everything to get out of it but her future husband still seems to want her. Amelia's mother is set on this marriage to the Earl so that is where she is pushing her daughter to marry him. Amelia does have a older sister but due to a physical health issue she stays in her room and doesn't come out to see strangers. Nicholas is having some family issue too. Amelia is a strong heroine who tries to change her path. I enjoyed reading how these two worked things out to get together. I hope to read more from this author soon.

"My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read."

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Amy ~ Love At 1st Read says

Kimberly Bell's start to her Tale of Two Sisters series is everything I could want in a romance novel. Romance, adventure, and shenanigans abound. Being scandalous has never seemed more fun!

Nicholas, the second son of Lord and Lady Wakefield, was summoned home after two years abroad. Home should be a place he welcomed, but instead it only made him long to be somewhere else. Abroad, he'd been able to live life as he wanted without disapproval. At home, he was subject to the whims of his parents. Nick was determined that this trip home would bring changes. He wanted more to his life than being a dutiful son. He would tell his parents he intended to pursue a profession, something no respectable member of English nobility would do. And he would declare himself to Amelia Bishop, his neighbor and best friend since childhood. Though his mother wanted nothing to do with the scandalous Bishops and would never allow such a match, it had never stopped Nick from wanting Amelia. But things had changed in Nick's absence. His father was suffering from dementia and Amelia was now engaged. A good friend would want Amelia to be happy, but Nick had never wanted to be just her friend.

Amelia Bishop found herself in a world she'd never imagined herself to be in. Because of her sister Julia's disability, her family had always been somewhat of a pariah in society. A defective child made one question the family line. But now, after accepting the marriage proposal of Lord Embry Montrose, Amelia found herself in a "never ending stream of planning parties, making introductions, and catching up on social skills she'd never expected to need to learn". And she was miserable. Her fiancé seemed nice enough but she couldn't help comparing him to Nicholas, her friend and confidant since she was six years old. And when Amelia realized that Embry was trying to turn her into the image of his deceased fiancé and take her away from her family, she knew she must end the relationship. Embry, however, felt otherwise. He wouldn't release her from her commitment and even threatened a breach of contract suit. If Embry wouldn't let her end the relationship, she'd just have to ensure that he found her so undesirable that he'd want to end it instead.

What follows is a hilarious sequence of attempts to be so scandalous that Embry will end the betrothal. With the help of Julia, Nick, and Nick's friend Jasper, Amelia sets out to be completely unmarriageable. And on the way, she discovers that those feelings she's always harbored for her good friend Nick are something she wants to explore more.

This story was such fun to read and a great introduction to a new-to-me author and series. I was immediately caught up in the story and fell in love with the characters. Nick and Amelia were so loveable. While Amelia's mix of boldness and innocence were delightful, a drunk Amelia was downright hysterical. Nick was absolutely charming. He wanted to change his life and make it his own but he also felt obligated to his family. I loved watching him battle his amorous feelings for Amelia while trying to be her friend. His attempt at control while fitting her for her horse racing outfit had me in tears. It was so much fun to see them

question each other's attraction when the chemistry between them was so obvious to everyone else. I loved the family dynamics in the story as well. Amelia's relationship with Julia was touching. Amelia didn't want a marriage if it meant losing her sister. They were wonderful sibling characters who were impish and naughty. Nick's family dynamic hit close to home for me with his father battling dementia. The realization that you never consider your parents getting old until it's upon you was a poignant part of the story for me. His battle with disappointing his family and going after what he wanted made me love him even more.

The secondary characters of Jasper and Julia were every bit as entertaining as the main characters. They were true schemers and such fun to read. I'm hoping they'll find each other in a future book. Those two together would be explosive!

I look forward to the rest of this series. The fast paced plot, witty writing style, and perfect blend of steamy and sweet make this story one you'll love to get lost in. I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Readers Copy of this book.

Barbara Rogers says

Series: Tale of Two Sisters #1

Publication Date: 07/25/17

I think 3.5 stars for this one

This is my first book by Kimberly Bell. I'm sure Julia's story will be next and I definitely want to read it. It will be interesting to see where the families progress in their relationships and acceptance of each other.

This is the story of Nick and Amelia who were lifelong friends and neighbors, but who secretly loved each other. Nick does his continental tour (for two years) and Amelia gets engaged while he's gone. Amelia spends most of the story trying to get un-engaged and does some pretty outrageous things to make it happen.

The characters:

- Nick – He has been in love with Amelia forever and acknowledges that to himself, but never tells her. While he is away on his grand tour he works up the courage to finally tell her – except when he gets home, he finds she's engaged. Nick was raised by very cool and aloof parents and that is, in part, why he is insecure in relationships. Luckily his brother is a loving man. Nick is basically a wuss but finally finds his spine.
- Amelia – She is devoted to her older sister who has always been looked down upon because she has a physical infirmity. Amelia's engagement is supposed to save her family from being ostracized socially since she's engaged to an Earl. She doesn't really love the Earl, she actually loves Nick but has a hard time admitting that to herself.
- Julia – Amelia's sister. She was born with a spinal defect that also caused her legs to be turned and has caused her to have several crises over the years. She absolutely NEVER goes out in public and stays in her room when a visitor arrives. To say she is reclusive is putting it mildly.
- Amelia's Mother – she is a real nasty person. She's always in hysterics and is so smitten with the idea of her daughter marrying an Earl that she will do anything, even sacrifice her daughter, to see it happen.
- Lord Montrose*** -- Amelia's betrothed. He's a good, honest, honorable, caring man – except he isn't. Somehow, in his mind, he's superimposed Amelia with his first fiancé who died. He cannot see that Amelia is very different from XXXX and he will do absolutely anything to marry Amelia – even collude with her mother.

- Amelia's Father – he is a real sweetie and loves his daughters unconditionally.
- Nick's Parents – they brought Nick home from his tour because his dad is suffering from dementia and it is getting progressively worse. They didn't do it because they wanted to spend time with Nick – no – they did it to make things easier for the older son. They are very cold and unfeeling – especially the mother.

Most of what I say following this will sound like a negative review – but please don't take it that way. I did enjoy the story and I became invested in the characters and laughed and cried right along with them. Most of what bothered me were 'technical' kinds of things – things that just didn't ring true for the time period. So, if those things don't bother you – you'll absolutely love the story. If they do bother you, then you'll just have to put your blinders on in order to enjoy the story.

I thoroughly enjoyed the storyline and the lengths to which Amelia was willing to go in order to break her engagement. However, I must say that if I were to base my rating on the first 10-20% of the book, it would be much lower. Amelia and Julia come across as very, very juvenile. I was glad to see that they didn't continue in that vein. Yes – they did continue to have some back-and-forth, but it sounded like normal sister-to-sister yammering. Nick is also a complete wuss and you wonder how he'll ever become the hero of the story.

One spoiler for me was that from the very beginning Amelia's family was completely ostracized by society because their older daughter, Julia, was born with a birth defect. Something to do with her spine that left her with a twisted leg/foot and therefore a limp. I can understand some people being narrow-minded and unaccepting, but not everybody and not to the degree described. So, when it started out with that premise, I had a hard time getting into the characters and caring for the rest of the story. Now, I'm talking total and complete ostracizing – even the servants work there as a last resort.

To my view, if an author is going to write historical romance, they should absolutely research and thoroughly understand the accepted societal standards of that period, the correct forms of address and primogeniture. I do not feel this author has a clue and that definitely took away from the story for me. Some examples:

- Nick's father is the Marquess of Wakefield, but Nick's name is Nicholas Wakefield. That would not be the case. They would have a family name different from the title. Jas also calls Nick 'Wakefield', which would be incorrect – his father, the Marquess, would be referred to as Wakefield.
- Then – there is Lady Amelia. Her parents are also referred to as Lady Bishop and Lord Bishop. That would indicate that her father has a title – yet – there is no mention of that title and it is mentioned in a few places that he made his money in business. Also, in some places, she's referred to as Lady Amelia and in others, she is Miss Amelia.

I won't cover the story in a blow-by-blow because you can see the gist of it in the book-blurb.

"I requested and received this book at no cost to me and volunteered to read it; my review is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher."

Monique says

Is there anything better than discovering a new author and being utterly charmed!

Nicholas Wakefield has been summoned home after two years, he's the marquess' second son and highly disposable. Nothing seems to have changed, but in fact, a lot has. Nicholas' father is not well, he has been

showing more and more signs of dementia, and Nicholas' mother is at her wits' ends. Nicholas has always loved Amelia Bishop, and when he sees her again, he knows it's finally time to declare himself, even though the Wakefields disapprove of the Bishops. Unfortunately, things have changed there as well: Amelia is engaged to Embry Montrose, an earl, of all people! The Wakefields cannot believe their luck!

I took this book on a whim; sometimes, I wonder if I like to torture myself when it comes to some titles or tropes, and see if the author has done it the way I would like. And by Jove, Kimberly Bell has done it! **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING SCANDALOUS** is so much more than the title and the blurb imply. It is a very intelligent book, with a great story, astonishingly well written, and every character is sharply defined. I loved the exchanges between Amelia and her older sister Julia, they felt so real. Julia has a spinal condition, she is Amelia's better in every way, except for the fact that Julia limps, therefore she is perceived as inferior, which was extremely sad to see. I was never sure if the Bishops were ostracised solely because of Julia's limp, but with regards to the book, in the end, I didn't really care, because **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING SCANDALOUS** is a monument of elegance, of refinement, with an intelligent plot, characters I really cared for, and stellar writing.

Nicholas and Amelia are childhood friends, and I felt it; I also felt Nicholas' despair. He is so madly in love with Amelia, he is an honourable man, and when Embry shows his true colours, Nicholas is there to help Amelia, hoping she will see him the same way he sees her. Amelia is in love with Nicholas, but things are inordinately complicated, and her acceptance or refusal of Embry could alter many lives. The secondary characters are also so well drawn, and Jasper Bellamy, a recent friend of Nicholas', is fantastic; I cannot wait to read his story. While Nicholas is proper, and mild-mannered, Jasper is exuberant, wild and fearless. The dialogues are nothing short of spectacular in their historical accuracy and tone. As for Nicholas and Amelia, they were so marvellous together, they were like sunshine and blue skies, so young, vibrant, and utterly lovely, and the sex scenes are some of the most lyrical I have ever read.

I expected a peccadillo would provoke Amelia's need to be "scandalous", but she had a most valid and most commendable reason. And when things take a serious turn, Oh my! hang on to your reticules! **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING SCANDALOUS** is simply phenomenal!

See my review on: <https://straightshootinbookreviews.co...>

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book.

Erin Kelly says

I have previously read Kimberly Bell and was pleasantly surprised by her shockingly forward heroine in "A Dangerous Damsel". Well, Bell has surpassed herself in this new historical in every way, and I am giddy with excitement to see this author burst onto the scene with such a strong offering.

The Story-

Nicholas is home from sowing his wild oats, trying to forget about the "unsuitable" girl next door to whom he has written daily letters for most of his life. Sigh. And now she is engaged. Add to his troubles a declining father, his own "misplaced" ambition, and an unclear path for his life. Amelia's life has mostly been dictated by her sister's unfortunate birth defect due to society's backward notions. When a legit suitor proposes marriage, it appears to be her best option until her best friend comes back into her life. And the "legit suitor" shows his true colors. Now she has to see exactly what kind of scandal it will take to be free of the

engagement.

My Thoughts-

Just like my first Bell book, I LOVED the females. These sisters' interactions remind me of me and my sister, and I loved their wit and sarcasm. Nicholas and Jasper are excellent foils for the girls (JASPER! Swoon). Somehow, Bell has created truly fresh characters in a familiar setting with these four. Even the secondary characters are wonderful: Jasper's sister, Amelia's father, the list goes on. The plot caught me from the beginning, and at a certain point, I was not putting the book down until I was done. Just couldn't stop reading. The "how to lose a guy" trope felt fresh as it was approached in a completely new way, and the sexy scenes are both hot as fire and sweet and sigh-worthy.

The Bottom Line-

This is an excellent historical that is going to win many fans for Ms. Bell. I can't wait to read book two and wish that there were more in the series. 5 stars!

Jen ♥Star-Crossed Book Blog♥ says

You know that feeling when you click with a book and the whole world around you fades away? That's exactly what happened to me. I found myself addicted to the story and completely obsessed with these characters. **So if you adore romance that makes your heart race, has strong friendships, and is laced with moments that will have you laughing and then sighing out loud, then you definitely have to give The Importance of Being Scandalous a try!**

"What is for you?" she teased.

You . Nick put a stranglehold on his heart so he didn't say it out loud.

Amelia Bishop was in a tough predicament. What was once a wonderful idea, being engaged, now felt claustrophobic. She tried her hardest to give her fiance a chance, but the more she saw who he was, the more desperate she was to get out of her arrangement. With her childhood friend back home, Nicholas Wakefield, Amelia had someone to help her out. **Nicholas was the boy next door, who had secretly been in love with her. He was the perfect person to help Amelia end her engagement** and I found myself constantly smiling with everything that took place.

Amelia sighed. Before she closed the cloak, she turned to her sister. "How do I look, honestly?"

"Like a women who is up to absolutely no good."

Amelia nodded. "Well, then I suppose I'm ready."

You guys, **I loved Amelia. She was strong willed, fierce and protected those that she loved.** It was a breath of fresh air that she knew what she wanted and had no problems speaking her mind. I clicked with her instantly. Amelia made me smile, laugh and my heart hurt for her for the situation she was in. Thankfully she had a lot of light in her life. I loved the relationship she had with her sister Julia. While they didn't always see eye to eye at times, I loved that they were the best of friends. They joked around and caused lots of hilarious trouble. While I adored their relationship, I was even more addicted to the one she had with Nicholas.

He might not be ready to declare himself, but he could start clearing up some

misunderstandings of her not knowing he was interested. "Just because I haven't doesn't mean I haven't thought about it."

She blushed, looking away when he didn't. "Well, maybe you should have."

Nicholas took a streaming breath.

Nicholas, sigh. **Nicholas was beyond intoxicating and spellbinding. His words, mannerisms and slight touches had my heart racing.** I loved how he was there for Amelia and that they confided in one another. Their friendship and trust was so beautiful. But underneath that friendship simmered tension, since Nicholas had been in love with Amelia for forever. I was an emotional mess over it because a union between them shouldn't happen, regardless of her fiance. Being with Amelia would disgrace his family. But Nicholas was a smart man, and while he knew his role with his family, he also knew what he wanted his life to be. And I loved that he went after what he wanted.

Nick pushed his hands through his hair in frustration. "I love her, Jas. I want to spend the rest of my life with her. I can't start with a stolen kiss in her bedroom while she belongs to someone else."

"And that's where you and I differ," Jasper said, raising his glass. "Because I can imagine no better beginning."

There was someone else that I loved in this story, Jas/Jasper/Viscount Bellamy. He was Nicholas' friend and I loved him whole heartedly. When Jasper, Nicholas and Amelia were together, I couldn't help but laugh and smile while they got into trouble. **It was seemless how easily Jasper fit into their lives and it was amazing to watch him protect and help those he cared for.** He was such a hilarious, brave, smart man. And I'm excited to see more of him in the next book!

His words died off as she leaned in close, lips a hair's breadth from his. The deep rise and fall of his chest as he breathed in drew her hand up in fascination. She played her fingers along the edges of his cravat. "I'm still interested. Are you certain?"

His hand brushed her rib cage. His thumb whispered against the underside of her breast. "It is not in my power to deny you."

The Importance of Being Scandalous was mesmerizing and I loved being lost in the pages. This was my first book by Kimberly Bell and I adored this charming story. **She made it so easy to fall head over heels in love with these characters. So I definitely can't wait to read the rest of Kimberly Bell's books!**

For more of my reviews, please visit:

Heather andrews says

Amelia likes to tell Nick her thoughts, "Amelia wanted to do married things with Nick. They could hide away in the woods and be naked all the time. And she told him so." Drunk Amelia means a handsy Amelia, "do you have hair everywhere? How far does it go?" She reached for the buttons on the fall, but his hands

trapped hers, bringing them to his lips." I liked this book, Nick and Amelia suited each other perfectly.

Lady Heather says

Release Date: July 25, 2017

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3...>

"5 - A Scandal Will Only Make Me More Determined Stars!"

I absolutely LOVED this book!

It had everything I enjoy reading in a historical romance.

It was well written, engaging, and full of wonderful surprises.

The characters (Amelia & and her sister Julia) were smart, witty, strong, and so very likeable... *I would love to have them as friends.*

Nicolas Wakefield was also an amazing character to read. Once he finally came into the man he was meant to be - nothing or nobody could get in his way... and it was a beautiful thing to read.

I loved Amelia and Nicolas' history, their friendship, and their loyalty to one another.

I would say this is a slow burn because it takes a while for the protagonists to transition from friendship to something else, but once they do, HOLY HELL - they were Smokin'!!

If you like strong, sassy, smart, witty, and loyal characters with just the right amount of scandal and a WHOLE lot of chemistry between the characters then this is the book for you!

I look forward to reading the next book from this author (*I hope it's Jasper and Julia's story*).

Pre-Order Links

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Importance-Bei...>

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-...>

"A copy of this book has been provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review."

Janet says

Nicholas Wakefield returns home after two years travelling in Europe to find his father is ill & forgetting things & the love of his life Amelia Bishop is engaged. Amelia also loves her best friend Nicholas, her fiancé Embry the Earl of Montrose doesn't make her tingle like Nicholas does. Then Embry says something against her handicapped sister Julia & Amelia tries to break the engagement but Embry will have none of it, so drastic measures are called for.

A horse race in trousers on Rotten Row, visiting a gaming hall in a dress that would make her mother faint, sneaking an invitation to the Sinners ball attended by only the wickedest, most debauched members of society. The only thing left is to entice childhood friend Nicholas Wakefield into a truly engagement-ending scandal. The Wakefields are the height of propriety, and Nicholas's parents have made it clear a wife from the neighbouring Bishop family would be unacceptable...

But Nicholas would give up everything if Amelia would ever see him as more than just a childhood friend. He'll go along with her scheme, even if it means ruining them both, because he's got a plan that will change her mind about him being merely the boy next door.

A lovely read & SO entertaining, the plot is straight forward & is well paced & doesn't flag. The characters have depth & are very likeable. Parts of the book had me in stitches especially Mia getting drunk – hilarious & Nick so honourable, not many men would have walked or run away. Julia is very well portrayed & I was so wanting her to meet Jasper. The trope of best friends to lovers is tried & tested & this novel doesn't disappoint in any way. All in all a delightful novel with matchmaking mothers, horrible fiancé, a wilful heroine & gorgeous hero what more could you want

My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read

alexis says

Not a fan. Review to come closer to the release date.

Lisa says

Amelia and Nicholas have been close friends since childhood. They also harbor deep feelings for one another, which everyone but themselves is aware of. Unfortunately though, Amelia is engaged to another. This is an amusing story about how she tries to end her engagement by becoming an unsuitable fiancee, and how he tries to win her love, despite the disapproval of both families.

I enjoyed this book; found it very entertaining. Amelia is a likeable character, and so is Nicholas. He is not the typical alpha rake that we come across in this genre. In fact, he's a romantic, and certainly not accustomed to breaking rules.

I felt that Nicholas' friend, Jasper, almost stole the show. He was actually my favorite character, with his bold, yet jovial personality. You can't help but like him.

My thanks to NetGalley and Entangled Publishing, LLC for the pleasure of reading and reviewing The Importance of Being Scandalous by Kimberly Bell.

Isha Coleman says

How can anyone not love a heroine, smart enough to know what she wants and brash enough to set about trying to get it? Strong women characters are a huge plus for me, because so many times they are portrayed as secondary, more than the stars that they are. Amelia is a stunning example of independence. She's strong enough to follow her own rules and wise enough to listen when her heart comes calling. Nicholas is just the icing on the cake. He loves her strength and despite her a scandalous behavior, she owns his heart. The Importance of Being Scandalous wins my vote for a wonderful and empowering tale.

Mandi Schreiner says

Oh this book. It has some very well done and clever banter (one of my favorite things) and it has a sister relationship that I adored. But it also has a "get rid of the fiance" story line that goes through the entire book and I got super tired of it.

Growing up on neighboring properties, Nicholas and Amelia or Mia, have been very good friends most of their lives. And while both families are wealthy, Nicholas's family is extremely strict, all about appearances and would never involve themselves in a scandal. They had an heir, and a spare (Nicholas) and Nicholas's parents want their sons to follow in their austere footsteps. For the past two years, Nicholas has left England and has traveled to Paris and beyond, getting rid of the strict confines of his family home for the first time and pondered about his life. He has loved Mia forever, but his parents do not approve of her family, so he never found the courage to go against them and declare for her. When his mother sends him a letter that his father is ill, Nicholas comes home, to care for his father and finally declare love for Mia.

Mia and her sister Julia are extremely close and have grown up in a warm, boisterous household. They love to play pranks and they do everything together. Julia has a spinal deformity, that makes her walk with a limp. Due to this, and their more outgoing behavior, they are shunned by the ton - whispered about, and not invited to society events. Julia has come to terms with the fact that she will grow old alone, and when Mia surprisingly gets an offer of marriage, from a titled gentleman, Lord Montrose, she encourages Mia to accept, so she can move above and beyond their scandalous household. Mia does accept, but when her betrothed starts to say negative things about Julia and her disability, Mia knows she made a mistake. With Nicholas back in town, their feelings for each other start to come to surface and Mia wants out of her engagement. But her fiance refuses to break it, threatening to bankrupt her family is she leaves him.

To start with the positive, Mia is super cute, Julia is super cute, heck - even Nicholas is super cute. The three of them are good friends having known each other forever and I enjoyed the three of them hanging out. Even when Nicholas hangs out just with Julia, I really enjoyed those scenes. Like when Julia and Nicholas are spying on Mia and Montrose...

"Shh!" Nicholas adjusted until he could see the couple standing on the terrace below. "What are they doing down there?"

"We don't know. Mother's in fits thinking Embry's trying to call off the engagement."

Hope surged inside him. He squashed it down. "Why would he do that?"

"Because we're unmannered wantons."

"Well, obviously." Nicholas grinned as he dodged the elbow she tried to jab into his ribs "But surely he knew that before today."

They were warm, with clever banter and just really well done relationships. Mia and Julia together made me smile so much. They get into trouble together, they fight, but they love each other so much and I loved how their relationship is portrayed.

This book starts with Mia engaged to Montrose and she quickly learns he isn't who she thought he was. After Montrose refuses to break their engagement, Mia, Nicholas, and Julia start to come up with elaborate schemes to embarrass and anger Montrose, so he will have no choice but to let Mia go. But this goes on the entire book. I got tired of it. Instead of giving Mia and Nicholas page time to court and woo, it's silly events aimed to hurt Montrose that seemed very over the top. The love between Mia and Nicholas gets pushed to the back. Nicholas is still yearning for her, which is done well, but the two of them together - we miss out on.

I have to also mention Nicholas's friend, Jasper, who comes to visit and adds to much to this book. He made me smile and laugh. He is truly devilish and naughty. Like when he catches Mia and Nicholas in bed together...

"Good evening," he said, getting comfortable on his stomach. "You must be Amelia Bishop."

"She pressed her face into the carpet beneath Nick's bed. "Unfortunately."

"There's nothing unfortunate about it. My name is Jasper and I expect we will become the best of friends."

The man was ridiculous, and it must be catching, because Amelia couldn't stop herself from asking, "Will we?"

"Oh yes. In my experience, it is extremely difficult to get our Nicholas to misbehave. And yet, here we are."

This is a pretty cute book. I just wish that the fiance getting dragged through the book had been cut off much earlier.

Grade: B-

Nicole says

I received this book from net galley for an honest review. Thank you!!

This novel was a good read. It contains love, romance, action, adventure, and mischief. This story involves fighting for what you want, finding your own happiness and overcoming obstacles that try to come and ruin the happiness one craves.

Amelia Bishop is engaged to Lord Montrose. Amelia does not want to marry him, but feels she must due to her family. She loves her sister, Julia, who has a handicap. People say things about Julia and it hurts Amelia.

Their mother even tells Julia to avoid parties so people do not see that she is a cripple.

Nicholas Wakefield is a second son and has returned from abroad. He has been in love with Amelia since they were kids and when he gets the courage to tell her his feelings, he finds out she is engaged. However, he knows Mia is not happy.

When Mia tries to break the betrothal, Montrose blackmails her by using her family. Mia decides to ask for Nick's help in making her an unsuitable bride for her fiancee. Nick asks for help from his friend, Jasper De Vere, a future duke and someone he met on his travels. As Mia does many things to make herself unsuitable, she thinks she does not want marriage and it causes an argument between her and Nick. Nick has his own family issues and they do not want him involved in any scandal. However, Nick still helps Mia when she gets into trouble. Still, there are those who will plot to keep Mia and Nick apart. Will they be successful or will Nick and Mia realize that they both have been in love with each since they were kids?
