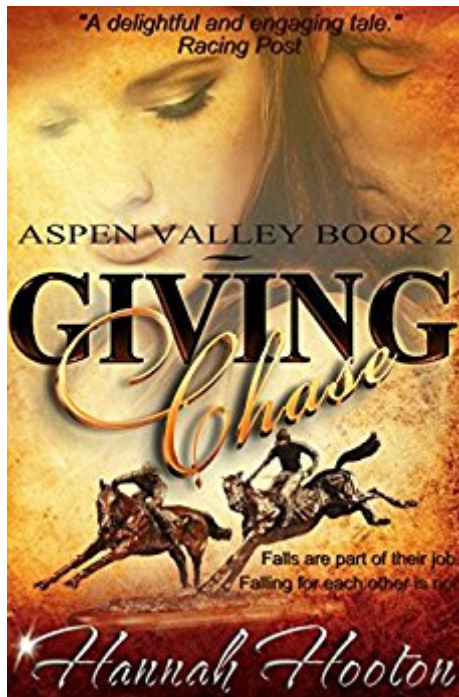


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# Giving Chase (Aspen Valley Book 2)



## Synopsis

There has only ever been one man in Frankie's life: her father, Doug Cooper. That is, until she takes the job of amateur jockey at Aspen Valley Racing Stables. Here, in the rolling West Country, she crosses paths with star rider, Rhys Bradford. Her crush on him would be made so much simpler if they didn't both have their hearts set on the same prize: the coveted ride in the Grand National...WINNER OF THE SKoW AWARDS BEST INTERNATIONAL ROMANCE 2012The highly anticipated follow-up to sports fiction BESTSELLER, *Keeping the Peace*. \*\*\*WARNING\*\*\*: Some characters in this novel use colourful language and engage in activities of a sexual nature which some readers might find offensive.

There has only ever been one man in Frankie's life: her father, Doug Cooper. That is until she takes the job of amateur jockey at Aspen Valley Racing Stables where her path not so much crosses as collides with that of star rider, Rhys Bradford. Her crush on him would be made so much simpler if she hadn't just been given the opportunity of a jockey's lifetime: the ride on Grand National favourite, Peace Offering. Unfortunately, it just so happens this opportunity comes at Rhys's expense and he's not happy about it... or is he? In the turbulent run-up to National Hunt's biggest event, Frankie is filled with questions. Is Rhys playing games with her heart? What exactly does her father have against the Bradfords? Will Taqi show his true potential in time to warrant his place at Aspen Valley? Why do there have to be so many blasted calories in strawberry cheesecake? And lastly, who exactly is Francesca Cooper?

A big-hearted romance of self-discovery and the thrills and spills that accompany love and life. *f* PRAISE FOR GIVING CHASE "[Hannah Hooton] is blessed with a ready wit and astute comedy timing... reminiscent of a Tom Sharpe novel but funnier. An engaging romance and a joy to read." *Racing Post* "A pleasure to turn the pages of this relaxing yet intriguing novel. This book's a winner!" *Equine Trade News* "For all you girls who love your racing this book should be on your list of things to read. A female leading lady, horse racing, intrigue, and even a bit of romance! What more could a girl ask for?" *Racing4Girls* "A well-crafted and engaging story that will take you on a roller coaster of emotions." *A Drop of Romeo* "A romance mystery thriller all rolled into one, with a touch of comedy to lighten the tone. Best buy of the year!" reviewer

## Book Information

File Size: 1303 KB

Print Length: 346 pages

Publisher: Aspen Valley Books; 1st edition (May 1, 2013)

Publication Date: May 1, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00C4GN8O8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #37,053 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Individual Sports > Horses > Racing #4 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Horses > Racing #902 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Sports

## Customer Reviews

Hannah Hooton is rapidly becoming one of my favorite authors. I read her first two books and loved both. She writes wonderful characters that it's very easy to identify with, and the racing element adds a lot of excitement, suspense, and unpredictability to her stories. The main complaint I had about Keeping the Peace was that I wanted a little more emphasis on the racing. That was definitely rectified in this book. I did not feel the ending was abrupt, but I, too, would have like to see another couple of pages at the end - although, to be honest, that probably would have weakened it. This book ended right after the Grand National, unlike Keeping the Peace which kind of meandered a bit after the big race. I loved KTP, but I thought this book was better written, especially the ending. In fact, I think Hooton's writing has improved with each book. I'm just having trouble with the fact that I have finished the book and have to leave these characters behind. This book had a lot of subplots, and I liked each one. None of them detracted from the main plot. In fact, most of them ended up tying in. I was happy to see the KTP characters brought back in minor rolls to see their HEAs continue although I was disappointed that Finn was never mentioned, but perhaps he'll eventually get his own book. I hope. One thing that I do wish the author would do in her next book is provide a glossary of racing terms. I don't really watch much steeple chase or hurdle racing, so when she describes a race by giving names to the types of jumps a horse makes or how it "pecked on the landing" (I had to Google this, and the explanation did make sense, but there were simply too many of these sayings to Google them all), I can't really visualize or completely understand what's happening. This was a very small inconvenience, though. Now the long wait for the next book

begins. **\*\*Sigh\*\***

Hannah Hooton has created another wonderful story with "Giving Chase"! I was happy that the characters Pippa & Jack from the first book were back, it was nice to see how their relationship progresses. Both the hero and heroines in "Giving Chase" are jockeys so it was great to learn about life as a jockey (the diet thing was an eye-opener for me!) The author has obviously done her research again. The heroine Frankie is young, determined but naïve while the hero Rhys reminds me a little of Mr Darcy from *Pride & Prejudice* - dark, handsome, and seemingly arrogant. I enjoyed how the history of the Bradfords and Coopers was revealed little by little, creating the right amount of tension and suspense. The horse Peace Offering from book 1 is also back, although he seemed a little colourless here after showing so much personality before, while Ta'Qali was wonderfully alive in this book. The racing scenes were exciting, seen through the eyes of Frankie and I found myself wincing and cheering with them. The conclusion was satisfying and I was a happy reader at the end. A great story, and one that I would definitely read again.

I'm an avid follower of jumps racing, so it's a real treat to be able to read a light hearted romance based on the sport of kings. This book is beautifully written, the characters are brilliantly crafted - I alternate wildly between loving and hating Rhys, and perhaps to a lesser extent Doug. Wonderful to see the return of some old favourite as well. I'd certainly recommend this book to newcomers - while it does follow on from *At Long Odds* and *Keeping The Peace*, it works really well as a stand alone book. Despite my passion for horse racing, I think this book would be equally enthralling to a racing newcomer, as there isn't an overwhelming amount of jargon. It's been particularly fascinating to read of Frankie's races, as it gives a wonderful insight to racing and race riding tactics. Roll on book number 4!

This was the first Hannah Hooton book I've read, but not the last. Although it is #2 in a series the well-developed characters, engaging plot twists, and realistic love story make this book stand alone. This is not a cheesy western or *My Little Pony* horse story. It's educational about racing and gender stereotypes. I recommend this book to anyone who likes romance novels with real heart.

I nearly abandoned this book a page in, when the author wrote 'Her cheeks were a blotchy pallid.' Pallid is an adverb, not a verb. There are similar errors throughout, mostly homonyms such as 'peak' instead of 'peek'. Opening with a vomiting session didn't exactly charm me either. A proofreader

could turn this book into a 4.5 star, as the storyline was engaging and I was caught up in the vivid descriptions of the races.

I love the premise. Love the drama of horse racing. Love the side characters. But I didn't like the heroine, and in the end, I lost a lot of respect for her. She just seems kind of careless and a bit stupid, and she is lucky enough to have a coveted dream job. She is just too wishy washy, and then makes bad choices. I have never loved a book so much at the beginning, only to hate it in the end. I just think Frankie is privileged and her oblivious view annoying.

Like her countryman, Hooton writes as if she has been a racing rider. While I rode mostly as a puncher in Arizona, everyone who's ever owned a quick horse has raced down some back country road and felt the adrenal rush Ms Hooton so skillfully writes about. She has captured the feelings of a young man whom no one believes could suffer from shyness or can see the shield of arrogance that is really a defence against social pain. Ms Hooton's female characters reflect the same fear we all have of rejection, but they also reflect that women are still ahead of we men when solving social ... muckups.

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