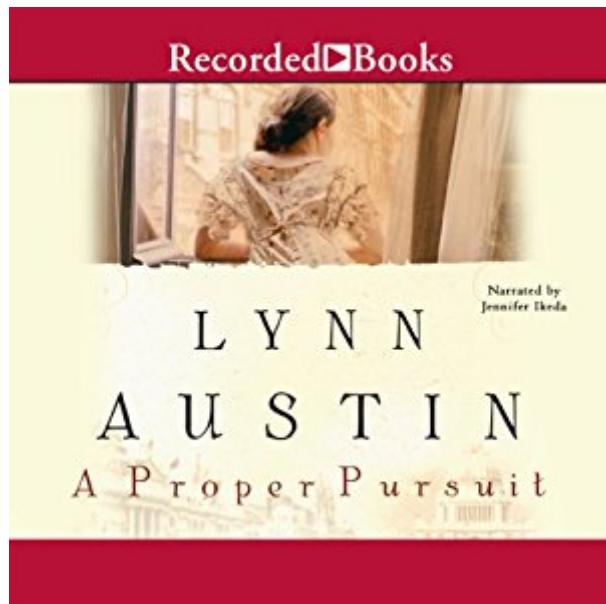


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# A Proper Pursuit



## **Synopsis**

Set in 1893 and seasoned with wholesome humor, *A Proper Pursuit* tells the uplifting story of 20-year old Violet Hayes and her search for her elusive mother and for true love. Fresh from finishing school, Violet receives a double shock. Her dad announces his upcoming wedding and then confesses an old lie - her mom didn't really leave for a sanitarium 11 years ago. But why then did she leave? Under cover of visiting the World's Fair, Violet travels to the stately Chicago home of her saintly grandmother and three eccentric great aunts. In her quest for her mother, Violet soon discovers much about faith, life, and love as she marches for women's rights, feeds slum dwellers, hob-knobs with the highfalutin, plays piano for evangelistic meetings, and ponders various marriage proposals. Lynn Austin, multiple Christy Award-winning author of *A Woman's Place*, creates vivid historical settings with vibrant characters.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book started out slowly, and I was beginning to wonder if it was written by the same Lynn Austin who had authored other historical novels that I have loved. The story began to gain momentum and then again became a book that I could not put down, the best kind of read! There is a reason the story begins the way it does. It illustrates the shallowness of Violet's education and lifestyle, and then as her eyes are opened to what a meaningful life can be, the story unfolds beautifully. I am so glad that I stayed with the story and was able to enjoy the delightful ending which made me laugh aloud!

For me this book moved slowly, but it kept me engaged. The characters were lovely and multi-dimensional, showing the author's maturity. I loved seeing the "White City" in Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition through their eyes. The period was well-researched. Even though the pace was slow, I hung in there and was not disappointed in the ending. So far I've read about 6 of Miss Austen's books and have enjoyed each one. They are not just enjoyable, but have made me examine some of my own thinking.

Another great book by Lynn Austin. This was a wonderful little mystery with so many wonderful characters. You will laugh and cry with them. Violet reminded me of Nancy Drew as she went on so many adventures trying to solve one mystery but ended up solving many more on the way. I enjoyed the journey. I am never disappointed in any of Lynn Austin's books.

At first I was disappointed since Austin's work is usually excellent, that the heroine was such an unlikeable ninny. Then I realized that was a literary decision on her part and that the point of the book was a coming of age story at a time in history when coming of age was starting to mean something different than before. I was entranced by the history of the story, and appreciated Austin's use of repeated themes and phrases and even stereotypes to get her point across. The mystery was subtly and slowly revealed without insulting the reader's intelligence nor being wildly contrived. As Violet matured, so did the story. I was, after a chapter or three, unable to put it down. It's not deeply theological nor trite. It had just enough depth for a book that is clearly meant as chick lit, not scholarly work. I would read it again. I was kept intrigued and wondering by the mysteries behind all the characters. Finally, I thought Austin offered good advice about maturity, love, and marriage, as well as a realistic look at what love does to you, and the inevitable disappointments of imperfect people.

I have read several of Lynn Austin books, but this one, I have to say, is the best one so far. The story centers around a young woman at the turn of the century who has a lust for life, a set of rules she must follow, and a mystery or mysteries that she must solve. She is searching for her lost mother, but along the way, makes discoveries that she didn't expect. This novel truly engaged me on many levels, romantic, historical, religious, mysterious. I highly recommend this book for those who love and enjoy reading a story that encompasses all of those things. The other point I might add is how this author writes, so smooth, so familiar. It is like sitting and listening to a friend tell you a story.

This is a mix of serial romance and pot boiler mystery. The characters are engaging and varied. Yet it's a cozy story with caricatures of women and men of the late 1800s. The villains are less villainous than some of the well meaning reformers. You keep reading to untangle the people and their stories until the ending sorts itself out. A fun read.

This book is a coming-of-age story of a 20 year old girl, set in the time of Chicago's Exposition, when young ladies were held to strict standards of behavior. Violet goes to Chicago to visit her grandmother and aunts with the intention of finding her mother, who left home 11 years before. She is unprepared for real life and her misadventures are hilarious, while at the same time her growth as a woman and as a Christian will move you to tears. I couldn't put it down until I was finished!

This is the story of a family who had many secrets woven in to the family life. The main character goes on a quest to get the answers to the questions about her mother's disappearance. In the meantime she has three different suitors seeking to court her in a time when chaperones were required for every step a woman took. The story has many intriguing characters. Many aspects of the plot remain up in the air until the last part of the book. The ending is worth the read.

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