Eventer's Dream  A Hoof in the Door  Ticket to Ride

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A horsey trilogy which follows the fortunes of Elaine Elliott as she battles through trials, equine thrush and slipped stifles to realise her ambition of becoming a three-day eventer, an honour usually reserved for the wealthy and well-connected. Tangled up in events come a nouveau pauvre pair Nigella and Henrietta Fane along with mama, Lady Jennifer. Just for a romantic touch there's the tall, dark and handsome whipper-in, Nick Forster.

In Book One, Elaine accepts a precarious job with the impecunious Fanes and has to pull the stable back together literally and financially, eventually acquiring Legend, the animal of her dreams, for training as an eventing horse. The winning of a scholarship to be schooled in the finer points of competition takes up Book Two and in the last volume Havers Hall is left behind to decay still further, whilst Elaine moves to the sternly regimented Equestrian Training School, where competition is fierce (and bitchy) and the work is hard.

There are some fairly unbelievable coincidences and you always know things will turn out well but Ms. Akrill has produced three lively stories, the pace of which should keep up the interest even for non-equine types. At the core of each novel are the human characters, especially Elaine herself. She, so wholesome and sensible - like bran - is balanced by the crazy, eccentric Fanes.

All three books are well recommended for the library or bookshop, not least by my 2nd Year girls, who enthusiastically devoured them in one evening.

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