



## The One That Got Away

*Victoria Alexander , Liz Carlyle , Eloisa James , Cathy Maxwell*

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Every woman remembers that one special man who slipped through her fingers, leaving her not only asking the question “What happened?” but also wondering about what could have been if she hadn’t let him go.

Now four of today’s bestselling historical romance writers—Victoria Alexander, Liz Carlyle, Eloisa James and Cathy Maxwell—show us what can happen when the man you thought was out of your life forever returns.

In this stirring quarter of original novellas, four sets of star-crossed lovers are given the golden opportunity to relive the passion . . . and set the past right. Fate has brought these couples back together, but only love can determine if each is just momentary madness or a reunion that will last for all time.

Included stories are:

"The Trouble With Charlotte" by **Victoria Alexander**

"Much Ado About Twelfth Night" by **Liz Carlyle**

"A Fool Again" by **Eloisa James**

"Nightingale" by **Cathy Maxwell**

## The One That Got Away Details

Date : Published May 10th 2011 by HarperCollins (first published October 26th 2004)

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Author : Victoria Alexander , Liz Carlyle , Eloisa James , Cathy Maxwell

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# From Reader Review The One That Got Away for online ebook

## Teresa says

I was on a trip recently and found this in the resort's library. I wanted something easy and cute. I thought that this would be a book where each authors' story wove into the next, but it did not. They were all completely separate stories, and since they were so short, kind of hard to really get in to. Not real deep stories, and just okay. Really, much more sex than was necessary, and one of the guys basically tried to rape the girl, which was just totally ridiculous...that was a real turn-off.

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## Patti Irwin says

First read in 2012. At first I marveled at how little I remembered from the stories about lost loves regained. Now I realize it was just a fortnight before I learned I had cancer. That does tend to push more trivial matters out of mind. I have yet to recover my reading stamina from those days, but a new year is coming.

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## Ruth says

The Trouble with Charlotte by Victoria Alexander - 3 stars. I was confused where this one was going at the beginning, as the narrative framing device used seemed unnecessary, but I did like the actual story. Sometimes people need to grow up and mature before they can be good spouses.

Much Ado about Twelfth Night by Liz Carlyle - 3 stars. It was nice, but I guess I'm not a big fan of farce in my historical romance. Definitely a talented author, though.

A Fool Again by Eloisa James - 3 stars. A widow gets another chance at the man with whom she almost eloped, but it may mean giving up everything else she has.

Nightingale by Cathy Maxwell - 4 stars. The best story in the whole offering. This one also focuses on a couple who were in love while young that didn't end up together and now are thrown back together when her brother challenges the hero to a duel. The theme of young love not being sufficient for a relationship and the need for adult temperaments. This isn't a theme brought up a lot in Regency romances, typically because the heroines are so young. I find it refreshing, though.

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## Ilze says

Giving this one 5 stars based on Cathy Maxwell's story.

Victoria Alexander's story - 2.5 stars. I liked Reggie and Marcus, but the story got quite boring the day after Charlotte's husband showed up - just talk, talk, talk.

Liz Carlyle's story - 2.5 stars - interesting premise, but could have been better handled.

3 stars for Eloisa James' story - again, a nice premise, but the heroine is really a blank slate and has nothing to make her interesting to the reader. Lucius is a lot more interesting and gets his due in the Essex sisters' series. Also, I have my doubts about these heroes who go to India with nothing and come back 5 or 6 years later fabulously rich - one can only conclude that a lot of local people in India got horribly exploited by these guys.

Cathy Maxwell's story gets 5 stars - intense, angsty, amazing.

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### **Virginia says**

As always, I do enjoy quick anthologies - if anything, just to get glimpses of other writers in the genre I like. They were fine - but of course, we run into the same problem all novellas of romances have: just the lack of time and space. Things take place in a matter of days. Story lines are even more unbelievable than the usual romance. Still, made me want to read more.

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### **Jessi says**

Usually I quite enjoy short stories. True, they aren't as well developed as longer romances but still enjoyable. This group (even including three authors I usually like to read) was "meh."

First up was "The Trouble with Charlotte" by Victoria Alexander. In this story, Charlotte Robb is a widow of seven years... except that, in this story, she finds out she isn't so widowed. Her long-presumed-dead husband has shown up just as Charlotte was thinking about finally taking a lover. The husband and Charlotte were like oil and water, they loved hard and fought hard. But he's a new man and she has changed as well. Wish his absence had been more developed and that she had not fallen back into his arms so quickly.

Second story: Much Ado about Twelfth Night by Liz Carlyle. It was okay. Sir Oliver Addison had once proposed to Lady Sophie St. John but she had refused him out of hand. Now, she's been invited to his home to celebrate his grandmother's birthday. She wants to buy a horse, he doesn't realize that and thinks that she is trying to trick him into marriage. It all works out in the end.

Next was "A Fool Again" by Eloisa James. At the beginning, Lady Genevieve Mulcaster is at her husband's funeral. She didn't love him, she had been forced to marry him after a failed elopement. And now, Genevieve has another reason to hate her late husband, he has left a codicil that she must marry one of his two business partners in order to keep the money. Just as she thinks she might be falling in love with one, her old flame shows up and reignites the passion.

Last up, "Nightingale" by Cathy Maxwell. Sir Dane Pendleton and Jemma Carson had enjoyed a youthful romance. But then she married somebody else. Now, Jemma's brother has challenged Dane to a duel and she needs to step in and save him. Passion, passion, passion... and it all works out in the end.

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### **Gail says**

A fun read.

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## Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

When reading anthologies, I usually pick up one novella here and there to fill in gaps between longer books and rarely read them straight through. With that being the case, I've decided to post reviews of each story as I finish it. Reviews on the remaining novellas and the overall book rating will be forthcoming.:-)

*The Trouble with Charlotte* by Victoria Alexander -

*Much Ado about Twelfth Night* by Liz Carlyle - *Much Ado about Twelfth Night* is a delightful reunion romance from one of my favorite authors, Liz Carlyle. As usual, she didn't disappoint. Because of the title, I thought this novella was about the celebration of Twelfth Night, but the Twelfth Night in question ended up being a champion racehorse that pretty much everyone in the story, except the hero, wanted. This made for a fun comedy-of-errors storyline, as the hero overhears a conversation between the heroine and her brother about the horse, and thinks they're talking about him. That part really made me giggle.:-)

Edward is a classic introvert who prefers to be alone, so when a gaggle of family and friends descends upon his newly inherited, but falling-down estate, he wishes he could go back to the continent, fighting Old Boney. It was positively endearing how Edward could command his troops with absolute precision, but he was tongue-tied around women, or perhaps one woman in particular. He just couldn't seem to make his mouth say the right words, which sometimes led to him babbling, but in the heat of love-making, he could be very sweetly seductive. On the outside though, Edward is the picture of the perfect soldier, stoic, coolly composed, and a bit brooding. It's funny that everyone around him sees that he's still in love with Sophie, but he doesn't initially recognize it. Edward is the responsible one in the family, always looking out for everyone else. It broke my heart that Sophie unintentionally broke his heart. It's easy to see through Edward's cool facade that he's hurt. He really thinks she doesn't care about him in a romantic way and never will.

In reality, Sophie has loved Edward since she was a teenager. He actually proposed to her when she was seventeen, but she turned him down flat, because she wanted his love and thought he was only doing it out of a sense of duty and pity. Little did she know that, by doing so, she completely shattered his heart. After Edward joined the army and went to France, Sophie never married. She and her younger brother were orphaned a couple of years before Edward proposed. During the last eight years, she poured all her time and effort into running the family estate and never really put herself on the market, mainly because she never wanted anyone but Edward. The family also owns a very lucrative horse-racing business, and now Edward is in possession of a prime racehorse that Sophie and her brother desperately want for their stables. This leaves her with no choice but to see Edward again if she wants to buy the horse, but when Edward mistakenly believes that she's coming back to persuade him to marry her after all, it leads to some amusing misunderstandings. Sophie was a sweet young woman with a bubbly personality, who cares very much about others. The thing I liked most about her is that she sees how much responsibility Edward takes on, and worries about there being no one to watch out for his well-being. Of course, she would love to be that person, but doesn't think he loves her in that way.

*Much Ado about Twelfth Night* was a funny, sweet, and endearing story. The only reason I chose to knock off half a star was that Edward and Sophie were both pretty stubborn and had some difficulty communicating effectively. If not for their matchmaking elderly grandmother, I'm not sure they ever would have gotten back together, but alls well that ends well. Overall, I had a really good time reading this novella. It was another winner for me from Ms. Carlyle. **Star Rating:** \*\*\*\*1/2

*A Fool Again* by Eloisa James -

*Nightingale* by Cathy Maxwell -

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### **Sharon says**

I love Victoria Alexander's books. They always entertain me. This book is an anthology. Authors Victoria Alexander, Liz Carlyle, Eloisa James and Cathy Maxwell tell the stories of four people who loved and lost and then love returned again.

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### **Judy says**

The One That Got Away Anthology

The Authors did an excellent job on these stories. You are not sure who the hero is at first or what direction the story will go. They have one suitor that you think is the main character but then a new one shows up. Or it will seem that their lives have such huge chasms between them that there can be no bridges, but with love there is always a way.

The Trouble With Charlotte by Victoria Alexander

Marcus Pennington is close to falling in love with Charlotte, a widow of six years. He is relaying his story to his friend, Reggie, a month after the incident. Both Reggie and Marcus are from the Effington Series. Just as Marcus shares a wondrous kiss with Charlotte her dead husband walks back into her life. Will she give Hugh Robb a second chance? Another great read from Victoria.

\*\*Sexual situations.

Much Ado About Twelfth Night by Liz Carlyle

The war hardened Edward Addison is now burdened with bringing back Sheridan to its former glory after his brother Reggie had run it down and put it in debt. As the new Earl it now fell on his shoulders.

Sophie has cared for Edward more than she even realized. He once asked her to marry him eight years ago but she knew like all things, he was doing it out of duty. Now they are heading to a house party at Sheridan and she is hoping to buy a prized racehorse from him that his brother had overpaid for just to have, Twelfth Night.

Between intercommunicating and eavesdropping that was misunderstood Edward and Sophie just don't seem to connect even though they really both want the same thing. Great story.

\*\*Sexual situations.

A Fool Again by Eloisa James

Genevieve had fallen for her neighbor when she was eighteen. Where she was taught to be lady the Darby boys were mischievous and always having fun. So she went off to Gretna Green with Tobias only to be caught by her father before they get there, but not before she was ruined, Tobias never offered for her and she was married off to a stingy old man instead. Now she is a widow but must marry a man of his choosing to keep any inheritance. So she chooses Felton. And then Tobias returns. Can she give up being the sophisticated lady she striven so long for or will the passion between Tobias and her reunite?

**\*\*Sexual situations.**

Nightingale by Cathy Maxwell

When the love of Sir Dane Pendleton marries another, it sets him on a course that hardened his heart and gained riches. Whereas Jemma ended up in poverty after the death of her husband who did not handle his money well. With all his wealth it seems he is still empty. Can Jemma and Dane find their way back to each other after ten years of choices that took them further apart?

**\*\*Sexual situations.**

<http://justjudysjumbles.blogspot.com/...>

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## **Maura says**

A good anthology of stories - most of them enjoyable (if not a bit uncomfortably angsty, because most of the time, if one gets away it's because of a rejection, betrayal or something equally uncomfortable.)

In *The Trouble With Charlotte*, the heroine nearly got away because the Hero was presumed dead. They'd parted on less than friendly terms and after several years of believing herself a widow, Charlotte decides to get herself a lover, just as her husband returns. In *Much Ado About Twelfth Night*, the heroine got away when she rejected the Hero's offer of marriage because she figured he was only asking out of duty. So there's some hard feelings there and it makes the heroine cry occasionally. And then there's an amusing little bit of confusion regarding the Hero and a horse. In *A Fool Again*, we have a sense of betrayal when the H and h elope but are caught before they can marry. Instead of sticking up for her, the Hero lets her father take her back and marry her off. There's some hard feelings between these two as they both remember it quite differently. *Nightingale* also involves betrayal and rejection. Jemma and Dane were in love, but Jemma, in her youthful stupidity, rejects Dane and **CHOOSES** to marry another. Dane of course cannot forgive. But in order to save her brother's life, she offers herself to Dane for a night.

As I said, unfcomfortably ansty, but really good.

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## **Anna says**

Fun, fun stories. I liked the concept of romances involving loves from the past.

Victoria Alexander's story is about a widow who finds out she is not a widow after all. Charlotte's memory of her marriage is not very favorable but when her husband returns, he is determined to make her change her mind.

Liz Carlyle's story is a comedy of manipulations by an elderly grandmother-type who makes everything work out just as she wants.

In Eloisa James' story a thwarted Gretna Green elopement turned into heartbreak for a young woman, but her suitor reappears and woos her all over again, now that she is a widow. Love Ms. James' wit and humor!

Have not read much of Cathy Maxwell but did like this story of a woman trying to bargain with her old love

to save her brother's life.

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### **Andree says**

Read this over two days. Should have cut my losses after the first story. This sounds delightful, in theory. But the novella length doesn't really work for any of them. Emotional shortcuts are taken, or rather, everyone seems to just feel ALL EMOTIONS ALL THE TIME, or emotional arcs are inconsistent. Or, actual narrative arcs are shorthanded via physical reactions. Which, I get it, can be powerful. But perhaps I am demanding, I want my romance to be more. I demand a sensible narrative arc.

The Eloisa James is by far the best of a bad lot. Basically (with the exception of the EJ, which could have been charming story of misunderstanding, had it not been for the physical circumventing any actual genuine building of regard in-story), this collection is way too much, YOU HAVE HURT ME IN THE PAST, THEREFORE JUSTIFYING ME BEING A COMPLETE JERK NOW. ESPECIALLY AS I GENERALLY HAVE ALL THE POWER. (And there is an element of the above in the EJ). Rise above, is all I'm saying guys, rise above.

And like, the convention flouting is just generally so much whatever. And it's all so much such desperate circumstances, and just, NO.

In other words, give me the story I want, or go away. Kind of annoyed with myself for reading this, in hindsight...

(I wanted to like the Liz Carlyle so much guys... the titles are all Shakespeare puns, there is an eccentric great aunt... instead, NO. Why can't I have nice things?)

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### **Gemma says**

Victoria Alexander's story is told mostly through the eyes of Marcus...who is not the hero! Why? I don't get it. There was so much of the novella spent building his character and his interaction with the heroine that I thought that he was the hero. I'm guessing he gets his own full-length book, and this novella was used to introduce him, maybe?

Liz Carlyle's was okay, but I didn't like how the hero basically lied to get her to agree to marry him.

Eliosia Jame's story again built up tension between the heroine and a man who was not the hero. The hero himself didn't show up until much later in the story. Since it's a novella, don't misdirect me so much, there isn't time for it!

Cathy Maxwell's turned me off. The characters spent most of the time having angsty "I hate you, come here" sex. Not my thing.

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## **JoAnn says**

A day or two after I read the kindle version of Eloisa James' *A Fool Again*, I found this book which includes that story. Since I enjoyed the James story, I thought it would be fun to try the other stories it was originally published with. It turns out I liked all of them. I would be hard pressed to tell you which story I liked the best.

Misunderstood intentions, a thwarted elopement, immaturity, parental manipulations, and the mis-identification of a severely wounded man, not to mention the resulting broken hearts are all here for the lovers to overcome.

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