



Blossoms

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LOVE IN BLOOM — Celebrate the arrival of spring with a bouquet of exquisite stories by five acclaimed authors of romantic fiction. Brimming with the richness and delicate beauty of the season's first flower, this wondrous collection reveals blossoming love in all its myriad colors and forms. Full of passion and promise, scandal and heartache, and rekindled desire, these heartfelt tales prove that spring is a time for new beginnings as well as second chances... and that flowers are the perfect symbol for budding romance.

HYACINTHS FOR VICTORIA by Patricia Oliver

A GOLDEN CROCUS by Patricia Rice

THE FORBIDDEN DAFFODILS by Mary Balogh

VIOLETS ARE BLUE by Karen Harper

THE APPLE BLOSSOM BLOWER by Margaret Evans Porter

Blossoms Details

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Author : Mary Balogh , Karen Harper , Patricia Oliver , Margaret Evans Porter , Patricia Rice

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Ilze says

I only read Mary Balogh's story initially, over a year ago, and it was quite lovely. Read Patricia Oliver's story today and it is delightful - also 4 stars.

I'll have to get hold of more of Patricia Oliver's books - I know that several Regency romance lovers think very highly of the ones she wrote between 1992 and 2000 (also under the pseudonym Olivia Fontayne).

AR Thor says

I've only read Mary Balogh's The Forbidden Daffodils and i really loved it. It's a big misunderstanding story, but it works just fine because it was a perfectly believable one.

Mary Hart says

Really Liked Mary Balogh's story...which I'd rate a 4.5

suzi says

For aMary Balogh story: Near perfect hero for me. I love constancy in my heroes. And I like the all the effort but not so good results in terms of love gifts. I also liked that the heroine is not as shallow as I initially believed her to be. And I love the spinster aunts!

SM says

Read Mary balogh' Story only. Ok read.

Diane Morris says

Although anthologies tend to be uneven due to the shorter length and various authors, some good and some not so, this anthology is better than average.

The Forbidden Daffodils - Balogh - starts the book off with a tale of a young woman who ran away Greta Green with a fortune-hunter and was caught and returned to her family by a suitor; not her father, nor her two brothers. This ruins her an unequivocally as running away with the first man had ruined her. She refused to marry the man - a suitor she liked very much - and is sent to live with her aunts in the backend of nowhere

(which is to say, Wales). After five years, the man who brought her back and proposed marriage has rented the big house and wants to understand why he was rejected. At least, that's what he tells himself. An excellent story; I would say typical Mary Balogh except there are stories of hers I detest. Five stars.

A Golden Crocus - Rice - confused me at first because I thought this a regency anthology. A Golden Crocus takes place in 1885 in Illinois. I wasn't immediately captured by the characters and tended to skim. Two cousins are discussing the letter one of them receives from her presumed suitor. She is a meek and mild maid, looking forward to nothing more than a house and husband with her letter-writing suitor. The other cousin is a lecturer for female rights This is a suitor-switching tale and, while I wasn't heavily invested, the characters were balanced and evenly handled. Three and a half stars, rounding up.

Hyacinths for Victoria - Oliver - Not my favorite story. After 7 years the heroine will attend a family gathering because she knows the once-hero will not be there. Fate decrees otherwise (otherwise, there wouldn't be a tale to tell) and she is faced with the man she jilted on the wedding day seven years ago. The question of why she jilted him is slow in coming - the eventual answer is that he was inept in love-making or maybe a little too eager. I didn't particularly like the heroine; a little too wimpy and dwelling in the past for my taste, and the hero was merely all right. An even three stars because I didn't skip the story although it read quickly because I'd start skimming anytime she started remember seven years back..

The Apple Blossom Bower - Porter - The squire's step-daughter is the daughter of the villainous smuggler and has a chip on her shoulder because of the many people's assumptions that since he was a smuggler then she and the rest of his family is as well. She has an eye for Sir Edwin Page who kissed her at the harvest fair but her mother warns her not to expect anything from him; that he will bed her then leave her. Sir Edwin would like to marry the squire's step-daughter. A friend of his comes to pay a visit and attempts to squash this budding romance for reasons of his own. A wonderful little story of how people surprise us by their actions. Easily four stars.

Violets are Blue - Harper - is another story taking place in the USA although in Baltimore in 1835. Violet's mother has recently died and someone is putting flowers on her grave. A confrontation with the perpetrator brings out an unknown part of her mother's life, of an early and eternal love with a sea captain as well as a suitor for Violet. I loved this story (although one of the secondary characters was a bit flat around the edges - like cardboard) and I love Violet's strength of character when she will not marry or betroth herself to Nathan according to his demands. Four and a half stars, round up.

Mina says

Only read the Balogh - but it was really well done. Interesting conflict, out of the way setting, down-to-Earth characters - well, as down-to-Earth as genre romance gets, anyway.

Christy says

Gave it 5 stars based solely on the Mary Balogh story, which is the only one I read. She is truly the master of the slow reveal. She doles out the backstory in little dollops at just the right pace. This was really a beautifully done short story. The Welsh setting and local color (who knew that the daffodil was a national symbol or that carving a spoon was a declaration of love?) made it even richer. The characters showed

believable growth and really seemed like they deserved their HEA. And all of this in 70 pages!

Linda says

Spring is in the air and Mary Balogh starts off this anthology with *The Forbidden Daffodils*. What can I tell you? It was a heart wrenching twist because of a lack of communication. It began and ended with daffodils. It is the only romance in this anthology that I can recommend. This story is for fans of her earlier Signet Regencies. ***5 stars***

Patricia Rice's *A Golden Crocus* followed using an opposites-attract trope. A gentleman wrote a letter to a woman he *thought* he loved and began it with, "Dear Sister". ***2 Stars***

Patricia Oliver's *Hyacinths For Victoria*, Margaret Evans Porter's *The Apple Blossom Bower* and Laura Harper's *Violets Are Blue* rounded out this selection of short works that used similar plot devices. ***2 1/2 stars*** a piece.

Sruthi says

Rating only for Mary Balogh.

Georgeanne says

I cannot recommend this book. I forced myself through three of the five stories and stopped partway through the fourth, so maybe the fifth was good - but I just didn't care for the rest. The characters were uniform in their stupidity and stubbornness.

Ann says

Rating for: *The Forbidden Daffodils* by Mary Balogh.
