



Lady Ann's Excellent Adventure (A Regency Short Story)

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Ariana Baxter says

Since Ms. Hern included an author's note regarding some of the characters and events in this story, it frees me to just speak about what I enjoyed.

Lady Ann is facing a marriage not of her choosing, and one she can't escape, so she slips away for a day just to experience life as those who aren't closely chaperoned might do.

Lord Evesham is out for a jaunt in his new curricule when he comes to the rescue of a pretty young lady. Never having met the woman he was betrothed to as child, he doesn't realize this is his fiancée. What follows during the next few hours is certainly most excellent adventure, Regency style.

Candice Hern is on my auto-buy list, and this book, while short, didn't disappoint.

Gena says

[Poor Anne spent the night crying and the wretch Will could have said something :) (hide spoiler)]

Jacob Proffitt says

Oh! This was a *delight!* It's very short and the whole story takes place in only 24 hours, but it's a wonderful romance and I fell into it gladly. Both Ann and Ev/Will are marvelous and seeing them develop a friendship with potential was just everything I wanted for a brief break tonight. All the stars for all the fun.

Laurel says

Have you ever read a short story and wished it was a full length novel? That is how I felt after completing "Lady Ann's Excellent Adventure." Short and sweet at 43 pages, Candice Hern has introduced characters that I instantly loved and wanted to know more about. What grabbed me so immediately you ask? The humor and effervescent theme.

In this brief format an author must use every word and sentence to advance the narrative quickly to its conclusion. Hern wastes no time by introducing the two main characters in an outrageous and humorous way: our hero, the Earl of Evesham, is test driving his new curricule down Park Lane in London and spies a young woman perched in a tree attempting to make her way over a fence. Caught by her skirts on a branch, she is prevented from progressing and literally up a tree! The unusual sight of a finely dressed woman in such a predicament is quite intriguing to the lord, but the fact that she is attempting to escape from the garden of the royal owner that he was appointed to meet the next day to make a formal offer for his daughter's hand is even more interesting. It is an arranged marriage since his boyhood and he has not seen his future fiancée since she was a child. Could this pretty young lady be his intended? No. It was highly unlikely that Lady

Ann of Gloucester, daughter of Prince William Henry, Duke of Gloucester, and niece to the king would be dangling from a tree in the fashionable Mayfair district. Was she instead a housebreaker escaping with the family silver? Who could this “adorable sprite” be?

She quickly shares that she is running away from her life—for a day—her last day of freedom before her life changes forever and she sacrifices herself to the “altar of duty.” That cinched it. She was his intended. He offers to help her down on one condition: that he be allowed to escort her on her adventure. She agrees and an unlikely alliance begins: and before it’s merry conclusion we are taken on a grand spree through several amusing sites in Regency London: to Hyde Park to watch a balloon ascent, to Black Friars Bridge to eat oysters, to Ludgate Hill to admire the shops where he buys her perfume, to Pasternoster Row to browse print and book shops where he purchases *The Picture of London for 1802, Being a Correct Guide to all of the Curiosities, Amusements, Exhibitions, Public Establishments and Remarkable Objects in and near London, for the use of Strangers, Foreigners, and all Persons who are not acquainted with the British Metropolis*. In short, a tourist guide book! She is delighted with all that she experiences, and most importantly him.

Assuming a name to hide his true identity and the connection to her family, along the way they inadvertently run across his friends who want to meet this pretty young lady; one even thinks she is his new ladybird! But, he is determined to keep up the ruse. “As the day progressed and he’d grown increasingly fond of her, even a little infatuated, he’d begun to feel a tad guilty at his deception. Even so, he was oddly reluctant to give it up. He was enjoying himself too much.” And so are we.

What a fun romp through some unusual sites in London that the Ton may not have frequented – and that was the point. Lady Ann wanted to experience life of the common man; to see their entertainments and live her life as a commoner in one day. Lord Evesham is a capable and charming guide, enjoying her wide-eyed amazement with a fresh perspective and a growing appreciation for the woman who would hopefully become his wife. But now how will he ever transition into the earl who she is pledged to marry, and will she be too angry and embarrassed to accept him when she discovers his deception?

A delightfully breezy and upbeat glimpse at two aristocrats playing hooky from duty and decorum, “Lady Ann’s Excellent Adventure” is all that its title promised. It is *Roman Holiday* meets *Georgette Heyer* and I could not be more enchanted with this reverse fairytale of two strangers who climb down from their high perch and enjoy the simple life and each other without inhibitions or preconceived assumptions. I was so captivated by each of the protagonists that I did not want their story to end. Like the conclusion of the delightful movie *Roman Holiday*, they do have to face the reality of their return to royalty, but their lives will never be burdened with regret.

Laurel Ann, Austenprose

Becca12348 says

Quick and cute. :)

Victoria says

I think Candice Hern is one of my favourite regency writers. In this short little novella we meet "Lady Ann" who is a Princess and "William" who is her betrothed. She is about to be formally engaged to him, but

decides to escape her home for one day of "freedom". By chance she meets him, while he knows who she is, she doesn't know who he is. He offers to escort her on her day of adventures and they have a wonderful time.

It's a very sweet story!

Mary says

I really enjoyed this "last fling" story. Lady Ann is to be officially betrothed to a man she hasn't seen since she was 6 yrs old.. so on the day before the betrothal she sneaks out in search of an "adventure". Who should come by as she's stuck in a tree trying to get out of her father's house? You guessed it.. her intended, Lord Evesham. Of course she doesn't discover his true identity as he takes her on a day long adventure that neither will ever forget.

The things that I like about this story are that it's very fast paced, Lady Anne is a strong female character and there is no "high drama". I don't like when story lines where one or the other character is pretending to be someone else.. and there are too many lies that will lead to hurt feelings when the truth comes out. In this story it's just a wonderful tale of two people falling love when they least expected it to happen.

Ceri says

This is a short story, set in the Regency era. Lord Evesham is driving his carriage along when he spots something unusual; a young lady, stuck in a tree! The house is one he is due to visit the following day, to formally propose to the young lady of high birth as per a longstanding arrangement. Naturally, he is curious, and a little apprehensive that this lady might prove to be his intended. He finds that the young lady is just trying to enjoy a last day of freedom and decides to accompany her, to get to know her better.

The spelling in this novella is generally American English, but there weren't particularly any Americanisms that jumped off the page aside from the spelling, and I learned some words that they spell differently that I hadn't realised were different previously (mollusk?!) Although this is a short story I didn't feel it was too short, in fact I felt the adventure went on a bit longer than I felt was likely, but it was very enjoyable nonetheless.

kris says

Will aka Lord Evesham is taking his new curricule for a spin when he finds a woman stuck in a tree. As he soon discovers, this woman is his soon-to-be arranged fiancée trying to have one last day of 'freedom' before she bows to her duty as the ultimate martyr. Many adventures later, they're feeling tingly about each other!!

This is another of Hern's quickies: it's a handful of pages but a fun little romp nonetheless. I almost suspect that Hern excels at these short bits because they don't allow her to get too mired in the love-them-hate-them back and forth I've found in a few of her longer length pieces: instead it's attraction and burgeoning feelings and it's cute and to the point and then over before it gets obnoxious.

Jeffrey says

I've loved everything that Candice Hern has written and this delightful short story is no exception.

Lady Ann is to be betrothed to a man she has not seen since childhood and she is fearful. Lord Eversham is that man and she does not know it. They meet quite by accident as she is trying to run away from her home in London. Snagged in a tree trying to escape from the second story window, Eversham rescues her and a lengthy romp through the town ensues.

These two characters are so loveable and charming I wish the author would write an entire novel about them. If I say anything more, I'll be delving into spoiler territory. Read the story instead!

Jenny Hambly says

Short and sweet; an arranged marriage, dutifully accepted as inevitable by both parties, who are hedged about by the manners and expectations of the ton. Once their official identities are stripped away, they are able to get to know each other as people. A light-hearted romp that can be read in a gulp.

Ana T. says

After having been delighted with the latest Candice Hern book I read I was looking forward to start this one and was even a bit disappointed when I realised that this was a novella.

Due to its very short format there's no space for a lot of character development but this was a fun romp and it definitely made me realise that I should grab more books by the author. She comes up with fun plot ideas and the execution in her hands is both light, fun and a bit outrageous. In this one Lady Ann of Gloucester wants to spend a day enjoying her freedom before becoming engaged to be married to a dull man but ends up spending her day, unknowingly, with that same man, who is perfectly aware of who she is.

The characters were likeable and engaging and they fit in with the plot beautifully. The only thing that I didn't particularly care for was that Lady Ann is made a member of the Royal family and I always have trouble imagining that - somehow it always sounds fake. But that is indeed a minor flaw.

Grade: 4/5

Maura says

A cute, sweet story about Lady Ann, who is entering into a formal betrothal and wants one last adventure before giving in to duty. Evesham, her betrothed, happens upon her and decides to take the opportunity to get to know his intended (without telling her who he is) and shows her a grand time about London, gradually falling in love with her. It's a novella, so we don't learn too terribly much about the characters and there isn't much in the way of chemistry between them. This is more romance than passion. But I wasn't so fond of how

it ended, that the hero lied to her for a whole day, sent her off alone believing she was letting love slip by her and then showing up and saying surprise. And she overlooks it as though she hadn't spent the entire night crying. I'd have been a bit angry about him not telling her the night before.

Andree says

Fluffy and fun, and works as a short story.

Roslyn says

Short but sweet and lots of fun.
