



It Happened One Night

Stephanie Laurens , Mary Balogh , Jacquie D'Alessandro , Candice Hern

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It Happened One Night . . . and nothing was ever the same again!

Once upon a time, four superstar storytellers—*New York Times* bestselling authors Stephanie Laurens and Mary Balogh, along with Jacquie D'Alessandro and Candice Hern—came up with a delicious idea. What if they each wrote a story about a proper young lady stranded at a remote inn away from society's constraints? What would happen? And how long would it take for her to give in to desire?

In these four amazing tales, four heroines will come face-to-face with the men who got away . . . only to discover that, instead of anger, there is still a passionate connection that cannot be denied. And while each of their lives is quite different, and their pasts utterly unique, they will all make a common discovery—that one night can change everything . . . forever.

It Happened One Night Details

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From Reader Review It Happened One Night for online ebook

Sm says

four short stories by four different authors

DNF: The Fall of Rogue Gerrard by Stephanie Laurens - I couldn't get into this one about Ro/Rogue/Robert (32) (one nickname seems to be enough, Rogue and Ro? seemed a little overkill for a short story) and Lydia (26), childhood friends, who haven't seen each other in ten years

they ended up kissing when she was 16 and he 22, he realized he'd found the one, which sent him into a cliched panic, causing him to turn chicken and ran away, thereafter pursuing his nickname and being a complete rogue. though apparently the roguishness only lasted four years and he's spent the most recent six being a philanthropist

Lydia is on a mission to steal back a letter her sister Tab/Tabitha wrote when the sister was 17 and fancied herself to be in love to be with someone affectionately known as the "spineless wonder" (at least eight years after the letter), but who has since turned into a bluestocking preaching that women didn't need men. so the letter would "ruin" the sister if publicized. anyway, the sister apparently asked for the letter back, but the receiver used it to write an IOU to the host of orgies, so Lydia tries to steal the letter while said host is in the midst of an orgy getaway

anyway, Lydia runs into Ro at this inn near the orgy mansion, to which Ro, of course, is invited, and I couldn't get beyond Loc 592 - just felt like the story dragged on

I skipped to the end and turns out she's been in love with him for forever and he's been in love with her since they first kissed when he was 22 (instead of telling her that, he turned into a creeper, admiring her from afar) "Very few people *forgot* Rogue Gerrard" (why? what made him so unforgettable?)

"She was going to make him wring the story from her, cryptic utterance by veiled truth" (this is pretty much how I felt reading the story and why I ended up stopping at)

"For your information, there is no such thing as being 'one step away from an orgy.' You either have an orgy, or you don't - there are no shades of gray when it comes to orgies." (HA!)

"I need to eat. My brain works much better when I feed it" (same)

Spellbound by Mary Balogh - Nora and Richard (Lord Bourne) were young lovers who ran away to get married, but were immediately broken up by Nora's father and brother who saw Richard, who'd been a secretary to Nora's father and not a Lord at that time, as of a lower class. they meet again, fortunes much reversed. Nora's poor and Bourne gained a title and money, and realize that her father and brother kept Bourne away and that she was too young/weak to stand up to them, stand up for true love. for being all jaded, Bourne's been going around for ten years talking about his reclusive wife and she entered the working world instead of trying to marry. he realizes that she didn't know that her father and brother kept him away and she comes to realize that she should've been stronger and held her ground. though, then, they both come to realize that things might not have ended HEA for them even if they had managed to stay together, and that, as painful as it's been, perhaps it did work out for the best that they met again ten years later

"Old adages had an annoying habit of being right"

"We none of us know what is in store for us in life, we have to grow in whichever direction life takes us"

"Hideous beyond belief. Wonderful beyond imaging. Young love ought never to be underestimated"

"Money made it go away. Money can accomplish many things"

"I am going," she said. It was beginning to sound lame, even to her own ears. If she meant it, why was she not already long gone?" (always wonder about this with authors, don't have your character repeating themselves, either do it or don't)

"The human heart was an incomprehensible thing"

"How soon had hope died?" (oh! heart gasp when he comes to this realization)

"Once in a long while, life offered up a moment, sometimes even a whole day, of vivid and unexpected

pleasure, and Nora had learned that such offerings must be grasped and lived for all they were worth lest they be lost forever"

"Would it have stood the test of time? There was no way of knowing, was there?"

"Stay with me. Stay for the rest of your life"

Only You by Jacquie D'Alessandro - about Cassandra and Ethan, another forbidden romance, she had horrible parents who resented her for not being a boy, and ended up marrying a horrid man who beat her, and Ethan was the stable boy who went off to war, then became a proprietor of an inn near her parents' home. Thankfully, he's smart and comes after her.

this was just okay, some little zings, but not quite the level of Balogh

From This Moment On by Candice Hern - Captain Sam/Samuel and Willie/Wilhelmina, they were young lovers, he was poor, she did a little better, but not by much. they were supposed to marry, but his boat turned up empty and they thought he'd died at sea. turns out he was just forced into the navy, but he rose through the ranks. she'd been pregnant and her religious mother kicked her out. she ended up becoming a muse to an artist, then his mistress, then a courtesan, who managed to marry a duke and become more respectable. over the years, they'd crossed paths because he sought her out - first, angry that she'd sold herself instead of waiting for him (her mother disposed of his letters to her) and second, to gloat that he'd married well and begot a son. they meet again when he's on the way to propose to the daughter of some connection or another. I wanted to like this one, but he just came off as a complete a-hole. she didn't ask for any of that, didn't realize he was alive, and did the best that she could. seems like that's all she did and he just horrible to her, over and over again, without once trying to understand why.

this was one where I would've been totally okay if she ended up with someone else, someone that would treat her well and not jump to judgey conclusions

Pam says

I only read the Mary Balogh story....SPELLBOUND. It was a sweet story and they both had to realize that what they thought happened didn't. They both (H and h) thought that the other deserted them 10 yrs before on their wedding night. Her father and brother came and grabbed her up from a her hasty wedding in Scotland. They told her to go up to her room and pack and leave with them. She did it thinking her new husband would stop them from taking her away. Well..she didn't know that her father and brother beat the crap out of the guy (Richard). It took him 2 days to get the strength up to follow them. Then he tried to see her and ask her to come back to him and marry him again in England but she never replied. That's because she NeVer recieved those requests from him. Her brother and father were a big pain and caused all the troubles she later faced. It ends very nicely....on a Big MAY DAY celebration.

Cindy says

An anthology of 4 Regency type stories. All set in different seasons, but each having the same theme : 10 years have passed since the couple have seen each other & they meet again through fate at a roadside inn. Normally, 10 years is way too long IMO for 2 lovers to be apart & it makes me impatient. It works for me with 3 of the stories. There is sex in all of them.

Stephanie Laurens - 2 stars. The only turkey of the bunch, I can't believe they gave her top billing! This story is set in Winter. The male lead (not the hero!) finds himself stranded by an ice storm at a remote inn. Long

ago his nurse called him "Rogue". He decided it was prophetic & had planned to live his life as one. When he was 22 he discovered he was in love with 16 year old Lydia. What else could he do but walk away from love? His whole life was planned out as a man whore & by God that's what he had to be! Of course he's been an angel for 6 years, but everyone still thinks he's a man whore. Lydia is from an "eccentric" family & is a spinster. From what I can make out from this story, "eccentric" means you are very intelligent, but have no common sense. Lydia must do a break & enter to retrieve an incriminating love letter written by her sister from a hardened rake. Don't ask why the sister isn't doing it, it's a long boring story. Sometimes, especially if I dislike the story, I wonder how many STDs the male lead has. This is one of those stories. After all those orgies, which we are reminded that Rogue took part in ad nauseum, he should have at least 3 or 4!

Mary Balogh - 4 stars. This story is set in Spring. Nora walks away from her job as a companion & finds herself stranded at an inn. Richard was pulling away from the inn, when his curricule was broadsided by the stagecoach pulling in. When they meet, you can tell there's a lot of baggage (emotional) between them. Actually, they are married, when she was 18 & I think he was 20. MB tells a story so well. You're draw into it from the start & the revelations come in just right. I loved it!

Jacque D'Alessandro - 3 stars. This story is set in Summer. I like JD's novels. I have quite a few of them. This is a nice, but not realistic story of a Countess & an inn keeper. They knew each other since they were children, but she married at 18 & he went off to war. Now she's widowed, & he's still single. Guess what happens? :)

Candice Hern - 5 stars. This story is set in Autumn. Normally, I dislike a story where 25 (!) years have passed & the heroine is a former member of the demimonde. I have to tell you, this story is bittersweet & everything about it is just right! By the end, you're cheering. Enjoy!

Megzy says

reread in 2017. 3.5 stars

I wish authors would just stay with sexual chemistry instead of the actual act in short stories.
Common theme: Stranded in an inn and spending the night together.

Andree says

So, I feel like mostly a lot of these were kind of forgettable? Not bad, just not really good either, so I didn't feel like rating it three stars.

I finished this last night, and I had to take a moment to remember the four stories.

1. The first one (Stephanie Laurens) is kind of fun, though the male protagonist is nicknamed Ro, short for *Rogue*, and that gets annoying fast. Particularly as sometimes it feels like it might also be his actual first name, given that the female protagonist calls him that, and they've known each other since childhood, and surely he wasn't actually a Rogue when she first knew him... (just remembered this is apparently a prophetic nickname from a nurse...???). Also, as I said in my status update, I am so not into, "We must sneak into this house of ill repute and crazy sex parties for PLOT REASONS;" it is not my thing. (view spoiler)

That said, I do enjoy the personality of the female protagonist, and have realized that her sister is the protagonist of one of the stories in the other of these compilations that I have read (that one is better guys). She is fun. I wanted to like this, but it didn't quite get there.

2. The Mary Balogh. It's easily my favourite. I think I may be a sucker for old loves parting due to misunderstanding, and then meeting again through coincidence, and it working out. It's a bit underdeveloped, but it's a novella, and it mostly works. I do like the slow reveal of what actually happened. And it's a misunderstanding that's totally understandable from both perspectives, which is rare, and always nice when you find it. I also like that it's May Day. That is also fun. Also (view spoiler)

3. Okay, this one is pretty good. I do like the ideas it deals with, the tackling of class differences, and how it deals with infertility, and that it points out a thing that is often glossed over in historical romances (the women often being treated as property/bargaining chips). But I don't know, the female protagonist's family is too extreme, in some ways. She manages to climb out of an abusive situation fairly quickly. In many ways it sort of feels too easy. It's not terrible, but I wouldn't say it's great, in other words.

4. This one didn't quite work for me. It's people meeting again after about twenty years apart, and very different lives. I mean, I appreciate that it's not your typical protagonists. They're not the typical wealthy aristocrats a lot of these stories are about. But I don't know, something was missing for me. Perhaps actual relationship development in the modern day (it's a lot of reminiscing). I did enjoy that carriage wheels were repeatedly deliberately destroyed to delay people (in one case involving a loose pig). That is always fun. But I know I'm not going to remember it.

Desi says

Leído en Nov 2010

Me gustó la historia de Mary Balogh le doy **4 estrellas**

Argumento:

Nora Ryder acaba de dejar su trabajo como dama de compañía de una horrenda mujer quien nunca se molestó en pagarla durante los seis meses que estuvo empleada. Pero Nora es una superviviente, y usa la mayoría de sus restantes ahorros para comprar un billete para la diligencia a Londres y encontrar un mejor empleo. Desafortunadamente, llega a la aldea próxima para descubrir que la diligencia se ha retrasado, gracias a una desastrosa colisión con un carruaje. Apenas tiene suficiente dinero para una taza de té, mucho menos para una habitación en la posada, pero recibe la sorpresa de su vida cuando se encuentra con Richard Kemp, quien lacónicamente informa al mesonero que Nora está durmiendo en su habitación... como su esposa.

Esto no es una mentira, no exactamente. Una década antes, Nora era la mimada hija de un aristócrata y Richard el secretario de su padre, quienes juntos se fugaron a Escocia solo para ser atrapados por el padre de Nora y separados a la fuerza, la prueba de sus nupcias ocultada y destruida. Ahora, por supuesto, sus posiciones han sido humillantemente invertidas: no mucho después de su fallida fuga, la fortuna de Nora fue dilapidada por la afición de su padre al juego, y Richard tomó posesión de un adinerado título. Los recuerdos son amargos por ambos lados, sin embargo, al reencontrarse, tienen que convivir por un día y una noche, y lo hacen a la luz de la feria del pueblo y de una danza de cintas. ¿Serán veinticuatro horas suficiente tiempo para borrar años de ira y dolor?

leído en junio 2012

****le doy 2.5 estrellas a este relato**

La Caida de Rogue Gerrard - Stephanie Laurens

¿Y si una joven decente se queda atrapada en una posada lejos de las restricciones de la sociedad? ¿Qué sucedería? ¿Y cuánto tardaría en sucumbir al deseo? En este asombroso relato, nuestra heroína se enfrentará con el hombre del que huye... y descubre que, en lugar de ira, continúa habiendo una apasionada conexión que no puede negar. Y realizará un descubrimiento: que una noche puede cambiarlo todo... para siempre.

Bill says

I usually don't read short stories but Mary Balogh wrote one of the stories in this book so I picked it up. I liked the MB story, but my favorite story was the one by Candice Hern. The two lovers meet at an inn by chance. I liked that they were both in their early 40s. That is not common in the romance genre. They had both been virgins when they first made love when he was 18 and she was 16. They were separated shortly after and she thought he was dead. Her mother threw her out of the house and she became a highly paid courtesan. When he appeared five years later he was enraged at her chosen life style. Now 25 years later they have a chance to resolve many misunderstandings and maybe find the love they once had.

Sruthi says

I think I am going to read more of Stephanie Laurens.
Other three stories were just mediocre.

Andrea says

Well this was interesting. The idea was basically "what would happen if four authors each wrote a novella with the same theme?". Would they essentially be the same if in every story a couple would meet again by chance after years of separation? So Stephanie Laurens, Mary Balogh, Jacquie D'Alessandro, and Candice Hern each wrote such a story, set in a different season, and it's up to the reader to decide... I thought this idea was really cool, and I bought this only because of Mary Balogh, and thought it would be fun to read something by the two authors I didn't know yet (Laurens and Hern).

The Fall of Rogue Gerrard by Stephanie Laurens

I have never read anything by this author. I might check out one of her full-length stories (recs welcome), but this novella didn't convince me. It was just too short to connect to either of the characters for me, and I didn't really buy the hero's love. (view spoiler) ~ 2 stars

Spellbound by Mary Balogh

Well this was just... I hate to say this because I LOVE Mary Balogh, but this story was my least favorite of the bunch. The "hero" said some pretty awful things, and the heroine was a bit too stupid and spineless for my taste. (view spoiler) ~ 1 star

Only You by Jacquie D'Alessandro

My favorite novella of the bunch, even though the second half was mostly over-the-top drama that served as the excuse for the upper-class heroine to end up with a former stable boy in my opinion.

(view spoiler) ~ 4 stars

From this moment on by Candice Hern

I have heard good things about this author from a friend, and I will definitely check out more of her books. I really liked this one, compared with the rest it was fairly drama-free, but that had more to do with the characters being the oldest couple of the bunch (they were, imagine this, both well into their 40s). (view spoiler) ~ 4 stars

All in all, this was an OK read for me.

Becca says

I am an odd one and I do not like Stephanie Lauren's writing style, therefore, I did not get past 3 pages into hers so I cannot in all fairness give it a rating.

As for Mary Balogh, I have not read much by her, but I plan to read *A Summer to Remember* soon. This novella had such a distasteful beginning that I thought that no matter how she ended it, I would not believe it. The hero was a pretty epic jerk-his line of "sleep on the floor or be my servant" did it for me.

Next was Jacquie D'Alessandro's *Only You*. I have never read her work before, but I plan to now! I absolutely adored this novella. It was heartbreaking and beautiful. I would buy this book just so I could read this story over and over again. Not a plot line you read much and not one I thought I would buy into (different social classes-heroine from upper), but living in a cottage by the sea with the hero sounded just perfect by the end :). 5 stars.

Finally, the reason I picked up this book was when I found out that Candice Hern's novella was about the infamous Wilhelmina from the *Merry Widows* trilogy. I was pretty let down by this story. I liked parts of it in that it was about mature characters recognizing and actually talking about their past mistakes that kept them apart, but at the same time, the hero's constant use of the heroine's old nickname, Willie (yuck!) and "my girl" just made them sound like they were either 80 years old or talking about a horse, neither of which is appealing in a romance novel. For those who enjoyed the *Merry Widows* trilogy, give it a try; everyone else, you may not enjoy this one. 3 stars.

Julie (jjmachshev) says

Reviewed for queuemyreview.com; book release Oct08

I defy any historical romance reader to pass up an anthology with a writer lineup of Stephanie Laurens, Mary Balogh, Jacquie D'Alessandro, & Candice Hern. I certainly couldn't...and didn't. When I asked Quentin to let me review this one, I figured I'd have to fight, bribe, or play dirty to get it. But apparently, my stars are in proper alignment or something because when I opened my latest box, there it was.

In this anthology, each writer was given the same plot to use—"A man and a woman, who have neither seen nor heard from each other in ten years, meet again when they find themselves staying at the same inn for a twenty-four hour period." In addition, each author was given one season of the year and they didn't talk to each other until their stories were done. In a letter to the readers, the instigator of this anthology, Mary Balogh, asks the readers if this is just the same story told four times or four different stories...

Since you already know the plot, I'll just give a quick view of how I liked each author's story!

Stephanie Laurens provided "The Fall of Rogue Gerrard" which has the feel of her earlier novels. The hero's wicked reputation and the heroine's independence and headstrong nature are very reminiscent of her first few Cynster novels and I LOVED it. The delicious sexual tension, the strong sexy hero unable to resist his desire, the heroine determined to 'save' the hero...just a darn good story.

"Spellbound" by Mary Balogh had a very different feel. Our hero and heroine have the ultimate in misunderstandings and even though her explanation made sense, it was still a bit harder for me to swallow.

I fell in love with "Only You" by Jacquie D'Alessandro. This story was, for me, the most moving of all. Suffering and sacrifice resulting in the understanding that riches and social standing can't replace the real rewards of true love.

And finally, Candice Hern's "From This Moment On" wraps up the anthology with a tale of love postponed by circumstance and rekindled later in life. It's not often you get to read a historical romance with 'mature' characters!

All in all, quite a pleasurable read. Laurens and D'Alessandro were my top two and Balogh and HERNs came in right behind them. Each of the contributors took the plot in totally different directions that until I started this review, I'd forgotten they were all using the same outline! Just goes to show that these four talented historical authors can certainly provide a blissful break from reality. "It Happened One Night" is a must for any fan of Stephanie Laurens, Jacquie D'Alessandro, Mary Balogh, and Candice HERNs.

Ana T. says

This anthology has an interesting premise, all the stories feature couples that are known to each other but have been separated for 10 years. They now meet for just one night at an inn and that's all the time they have to deal with their differences.

The Fall of Rogue Gerrard by Stephanie Laurens

This was my least favorite story. I found no chemistry between the main characters, didn't feel there was enough development for them for them immediately proceed to the bedroom area. They also weren't very interesting characters so...

Grade: C-

Spellbound by Mary Balogh

My favorite. Balogh brings two people together makes them talk about what separate them 10 years ago, of what they have been doing ever since and we can't help but believe them when they realize their feelings for each other are still there.

Grade: A

Only You by Jacquie D'Alessandro

This story was not bad but it seemed too unbelievable that the heroine had suffered so much, that the stable boy that was once her friend is still in love with her and that in the end she decides to go to him and work with him in the inn.

Grade: C+

From This Moment On by Candice Hern

I had high expectations for Wilhelmina story and although it was bad it also wasn't as good as I hoped. Her character in the other books seemed to have more depth than what she reveals here. She meets a childhood friend and they talk about everything that happened to them and their young love and both needing forgiveness for past deeds. That seemed a bit forced especially because Wilhelmina always seemed to be the kind of woman who wasn't apologizing for doing what needed to be done to survive.

Grade: B-

Rachel Rogers says

The premise: 4 authors use the same plot. 2 people who previously cared for each other but have been apart for years meet by chance at an inn and spend the night under the same roof. Can the stories be different? Yes they can be different, a better question is, can they be good? I have had mixed luck with compilations such as this but this was an exercise in mediocrity. Balogh's story nearly made me put the book down several times. Laurens's was the best of the series, I guess. This was not an inspiring collection of work.

kris says

First: I get that Stephanie Laurens is like a ~Big Deal author or whatever, but I'm getting really done with anthologies that are like "TITLE, by STEPHANIE LAURENS (...& these Other Authors)" and then in the back there's her full bibliography spanning 10 pages with FULL COLOR IMAGES of all her book covers, but then the Other Authors gets a page that says "Other Works by Author". Like, gross.

I've yet to check out a single anthology because her name is on the cover. It's always been because of one of the Other Authors. JUST SAYING. ALSO BALOGH WAS THE ONE TO COME UP WITH THE IDEA AND YET SOME HOW LAURENS GETS TOP BILLING??

Gross.

The Fall of Rogue Gerrard, Stephanie Laurens

Forgettable? I read this this morning and I'm already having difficulties pinning it down? OK, after reading a blurb (or two): Lydia Makepeace's ~crazy brash sister wrote an indiscreet letter to a former flame! So Lydia's going to track it down--now with the help of her once bff/flame Ro (short for ROGUE, HOW CUTE, AMIRITE)! He sneaks her into this other dude's house dressed up as a courtesan; they get the letter back; and then he proceeds to deflower her ON A WINDOW SEAT in this OTHER DUDE'S LIBRARY. And then they go at it again back at the Inn before her family shows up and RUINS EVERYTHING.

Ultimately left me rolling my eyes. I've read like 4 books by Laurens and I'm already annoyed silly by the hero's nicknames. 2 stars.

Spellbound, Mary Balogh

Nora, an unemployed companion, is on her way back to London when she runs into Richard Kemp, the Baron of Bourne, who saves her from being thrown out of the Inn they're at by telling the proprietor that she's his wife...which she might actually be because 10 years ago, they'd eloped to Scotland together! Five chapters of tense stand-offs later, and they're reconciled to live HAPPY EVERY AFTER TOGETHER.

Better. Balogh's ability to inject TONE into her prose makes the beginning bits of this hard to get through because there's just *so much* pain and sorrow and anger rolled into every line. But as the knot of what really happened the night of their elopement and subsequent separation gets teased apart, it's hard not to root for them to figure their shit out. 3.75 stars

Only You, Jacquie D'Alessandro

Cassie is widowed! A Countess! Daughter of a Viscount! Beautiful! And so on her way home, she swings by the Inn owned by her former bff, Ethan Baxter, who also used to be a stablehand at her dad's place! They discuss their various pains and sorrows and then have sex before Cassie GIVES UP EVERYTHING to live happy ever after with Ethan at his Inn.

A mess of one-upping one another with how ~hard it was being apart? Although I do appreciate the fact that the attraction between them was never really...acknowledged? More on that at the bottom of the review. 2.5 stars

From This Moment On, Candice Hern

Willie is ~so old (over 40! SCANDALOUS). Also, a former courtesan! And artist's muse! And Captain Sam is her First Love! And in the Navy! AND ALSO OLD!!! They meet up for the first time in 10 years and reminisce about all the ~missed opportunities they had throughout their OH-SO-LONG LIVES?? and decide FUCK IT, LET'S BONE. They live happy ever after, eventually.

First: I LOVED that the heroine and hero weren't the traditional ages: BEST. However, I felt like the narrative kind of...knew that and like, drove the point home a little heavy-handedly? All the references to how beautiful the heroine was, considering her age! And just. WHATEVER. That said, this story was pretty much entirely about the reminiscing, leaving barely any room for chemistry or emotions. Just...lots of talking about the past. 2.5 stars

OVERALL: 1. I really don't like the "haven't seen each other in XX years!" plot twist. I just--really don't. I thought *Spellbound* did the best of the bunch, by introducing outside elements/people that intentionally broke the hero/heroine apart (even though it was almost over the top evil?). For me, having a hero (or heroine) ~disappear for XX years just tells me that the hero (or heroine) isn't worthy. And absolutely that sort of development can be earned, but I don't think that it resolves itself well into "reunited lovers" without A LOT of groveling and proving of one's self--ESPECIALLY if there has been some sort of acknowledgement of the feelings between the two (Laurens, Balogh, Hern).

Gilgamesha says

Surprisingly the senior and popular authors in this anthology Laurens and Balogh failed to deliver and the last two lesser know authors wrote really beautifully imaginative tales....it is interesting that they all are second chance stories...because one night stand with stranger didn't happen to respectable ladies of this era. I really enjoyed the last two stories.
