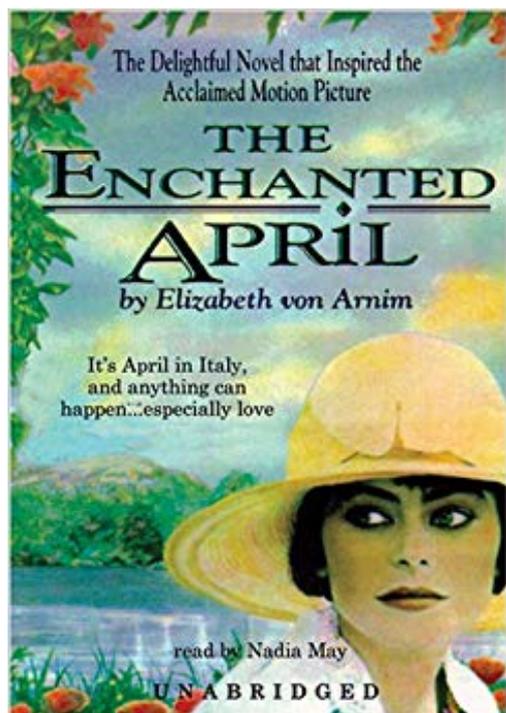


## Enchanted April: Classic Collection by Elizabeth Von Arnim



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**Author:** Elizabeth Von Arnim

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[Cassette Edition in retail cardboard packaging][Read by Nadia May ] Four very diverse women, all seeking revitalization from the dreary February rains of 1920s London, rent the small medieval castle of San Salvatore, nestled high above the bay of Portofino, Italy. Arriving at San Salvatore, they find it awash with the scent of flowers, its olive groves terracing down to the sun-warmed sea. Mrs. Wilkins and Mrs. Arbuthnot are glad to leave their insipid duties and unresponsive husbands behind. The elderly Mrs. Fisher wishes only to sit in the sun and replay her youthful memories, and the bewitchingly beautiful Lady Caroline Dester desires to have seclusion from all her adoring suitors. Amid the canopies of fragrant wisteria, in the sweet sunshine and melodious silence, four lives are transformed and resuscitated by the magic of San Salvatore.



## Reviews of the **Enchanted April: Classic Collection** by Elizabeth Von Arnim

### Fararala

This is one of the most amazing and wonderful books we've ever read (allow me to say that we have 9 bookcases in our home ... all packed to overflowing!). My husband and I both enjoy writing and we

also enjoy reading a good book together. This one has the most incredibly developed characters that it kept us enthralled waiting for the next unexpected twist in the story. Definitely one of the finest books we've ever read. We strongly recommend this book to anyone looking for a good book. We have now purchased 4 more of her books and are eager to delve into each one.

This story was written about the same time as the setting for "Downton Abbey", so if you enjoy that time period, you will definitely enjoy this book. Any book beginning with the promise of wisteria and sunshine is bound to be delightful.

As one reviewer pointed out, there are indeed some typos, however, they are not so horrific that it destroys the story. If you are at all literate, and are following the story, you immediately understand what was meant. It wasn't a big deal for us.

### **Wel**

"It was, that year, a particularly wonderful spring, and of all the months at San Salvatore April, if the weather was fine, was best. May scorched and withered; March was restless, and could be hard and cold in its brightness; but April came along softly like a blessing, and if it were a fine April it was so beautiful that it was impossible not to feel different, not to feel stirred and touched."

One of my aunts recently introduced me to fruit infused water. In the scorching Texas heat, which has already begun its brutal descent, cucumber lemon water has been extremely refreshing and invigorating—a definite heat repellent. That's exactly how I would describe the taste and effect of this book on me after my previous reading choices.

Four British women, all strangers and unique to each other, let a castle high up on the Italian Riviera in April to escape the dismal London weather. Although initially all seem to be evading the weather and personal living situations, the magical effects of their surroundings in Italy produce profound effects on each of them. At once introspective, each begins to realize what they yearn for most, and go about setting things to rights.

While the theme reminded me of several of E.M. Forster's novels, I loved the unique female perspective of each character. At turns hilarious and romantic, I enjoyed every aspect of it so much so that I color coded each character with sticky note flags so I could easily find passages when a good laugh is needed. I was smitten by all of the women, and found bits of myself in each of them. Von Armin's poetic descriptions of gardens and the lush landscapes also enriched the novel; I felt like I was there. What an affordable and ideal way to travel!

### **Risa**

The Enchanted April will not be everyone's cup of tea.....what book is? However for me it was the book I needed to be reading during a very stressful and sad time in my life. It didn't require any concentration.....there was no violence or drama.....there was no heart wrenching grief or hair pulling frustration. It is a book that is soothing and light, refreshing and well written.

The Enchanted April transports the reader along with four other women to a medieval castle in Portofino, in Italy. The women all undergo a transformation of one kind or another, but in such an entirely realistic and believable way you become one of the guests at the castle as well.

The story is slow. It is meant to be. Elizabeth von Arnim wants to transport her readers to another world and time where sunshine and flowers work their magic on the troubled soul.

### **Winn**

Elizabeth van Arnim is an underappreciated treasure. She wrote 100 years ago but I'm always surprised at the modernity of her point of view. I guess people really are the same underneath, a truth known to Jane Austen in 1800 and Elizabeth in 1898. She lived a privileged and amazing life (married to a Prussian count and then an English earl, sister-in-law to Bertram Russell, mistress to H.G. Wells, etc.) and yet I feel I know her as a beloved friend from her books -- they are so frank and

ring so true today. The trouble with husbands, the pull of children, the heavenliness of a day alone in the garden. I adore this book's delightful tale of crusty British ladies thawing rapidly in the Italian spring, but I love even more her autobiographical works, such as Elizabeth and her German Garden (a must for gardeners) and The Solitary Summer. She also wrote a wonderful book about every one of her many dogs (hard to get).

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