



Alas, My Love

Edith Layton

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Can a self-made man overcome humble beginnings to romance the lady of his dreams?

Surviving against all odds, Amyas St. Ives grew up in a foundling home, then escaped to the streets of London and managed, through sheer will and courage, to make his fortune. However, money and devastatingly good looks alone are not enough to gain entry into London high society; not when Amyas is unaware of his true origins and is considered base-born among the posh Regency set. When he meets the alluring Amber, a fellow foundling and ward of a respectable family, he thinks he's met a kindred spirit--but when Amber finally discovers her true identity, the hurdles to their love become insurmountable. How can Amyas convince her family that what a man is matters more than what he was born to be?

Alas, My Love Details

Date : Published March 29th 2005 by Avon

ISBN : 9780060567125

Author : Edith Layton

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Fiction

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From Reader Review Alas, My Love for online ebook

Kagama-the Literaturevixen says

One of the worst Edith Layton I have ever read, and I have loved some of her other books.

The hero doesn't know where he comes from so off he goes to search for them in Cornwall. He comes to visit the heroine's home, where she lives with the man who took her in when she was found as a child on the beach.

As soon as the "hero" figures out she's not a daughter of the house, and has no family, he decides she is of no interest to him. Even if he thinks she's very desirable.

Instead he sets out to court the heroine's foster sister, the actual daughter of the adoptive father.

And this was when I started to lose hope about the book.

Hero is such a big hypocrite.

Hello, I seem to remember he was without family himself, he acted so tragic at the start of the book and wished he had a family to call his own. Because people looked down on him, even though he was rich. *plays a sad fiddle*

Then there was another very disturbing event (to me at least) (view spoiler)

What kept me reading was to find out if the hero and heroine ever found out where they came from. But it was no reward for having ploughed through this book.

Lynne Tull says

Oops, I read this book out of sequence. Now I have to go back and read the first book. 'Alas, My Love' rated only a "like" from me. The story was okay and the H/H were likable. However, I found myself skipping over a lot of the filler. It seemed that the author was on her 'women's rights' soapbox. She used this era when women didn't have any to promote her views. I don't mind being educated by filler, but I like it to flow with the story. This didn't.

Frances says

Not as good as the first one, but I always seem to have to finish the series. Hopefully the next one will be better!!

Terri says

I liked the beginning and middle more than the end. Too much going on. The resolution seemed to drag on. But a likable hero and heroine.

Elaine says

This is a very slow starting story. I almost stopped reading it. I will not be reading the other books in this series. The storyline was decent, and could have been good, but it did drag on and really just wasn't worth reading. I would have given it a 1 but the story was ok, just didn't like the style of writing or how slow it progressed.

Julia says

Not as good as the first book of the Botany Bay series, but I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and look forward to finishing the series as well as more of her books!

penelopewanders says

I've read these all out of order, but am enjoying them nonetheless. The only somewhat big irritation is the pathetic French towards the end. I realize French is a language perhaps few people speak (just kidding, of course), but surely someone could have helped Edith Layton get it right?? Unfortunately that sort of thing often affects the credibility of the whole book, in my opinion.

Naksed says

This was so awful that I am shocked. I have enjoyed this author's other books immensely but this one was the turkey that killed Thanksgiving.

The "hero," if you want to call him that, is a nameless orphan, turned London street kid, turned convict, turned transportee to the colonies. With luck and hard work, he turns things around and returns to London as an adult, with fortune and connections. But dressing the part of a nobleman is not enough. He wants respectability, a family, heirs, and of course, a real name, not the moniker he has invented for himself to mask his dubious origins.

So he sets out from the big city to the provinces, with two goals in mind. Research his origins discreetly, on the off chance that he can find out something about his parents and why they dropped him off at an orphanage when he was a baby. He also hopes to snag himself a wife with a good and solid family name, since provincial girls would be less picky and less savvy than the London noble women who love to flirt with him but would not dream of taking a husband whose pedigree cannot be traced through Norman times.

This set up initially drew my sympathy, especially as it is laid out in his strong, emotional, narrative voice. But things totally fell apart when he meets the heroine, the adopted daughter of a local, wealthy bourgeois. He is immediately smitten, but then gives her the cold shoulder when he finds out she is also a nameless foundling, found on the beach as a baby after a storm capsized the ship she and presumably her parents had been traveling in, leaving no other survivors or any information as to her identity.

Instead, he courts her sister, without really caring for her, while making goo goo eyes at the heroine. He wants the heroine in his bed but he wants to marry the sister because as the real daughter of the household, she is the one who will give him respectability. The whole time, he pretends he is a London dandy, inventing relatives, estates, and a whole fabricated life, in order to fool the local gentry.

If this hypocritical, lying, cheating, mercenary, cold and calculating character wasn't enough to give you fits, the heroine is a doormat/martyr type who proudly suffers in silence the obvious insult of having this man courting her sister while avidly desiring her.

It would have been nice to have the whole con blow up in this cad's face at the altar but instead, the author inexplicably has him confessing to all his lies and deceit spontaneously, leading his intended's father to unceremoniously throw him out of his house. So not only is this character a liar and a hypocrite, he is also stupid enough to self-sabotage and too cowardly to follow up his own scheme to the bitter end.

I read enough of this story that I knew I would not be remotely interested in either of these characters ' eventual, inevitable HEA.

Katie says

I had to stop reading this one halfway through. Just flat -- not engaging and nothing unique about the main characters.
