



A Gentleman Never Tells

Eloisa James

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Eighteen months ago, Lizzie Troutt's husband died in his mistress's bed, leaving her determined to never marry again....and unfortunately virginal.

Eighteen years ago (give or take a few) the Honorable Oliver Berwick blackened his own soul, leaving him hardened and resolutely single.

When the chance for redemption in the form of a country house party invitation comes his way, Oliver is determined to prove himself a gentleman.

Until he breaks all the codes of gentlemanly behavior...once again.

A Gentleman Never Tells Details

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From Reader Review A Gentleman Never Tells for online ebook

Vikki Vaught says

Delightful! It has been a while since I read a book by Eloisa James. I thoroughly enjoyed this one.

Ann says

Thanks to the publisher for an advance reader's copy.

Oh feminist romance writers, you are so fun to discover at this point in my life. Even though the short format required instalove, I liked these characters and their baggage. I didn't know it was part of a series when I requested it, but didn't have any issues understanding the backstory. Plus, there's a literal bodice-ripping, which made me laugh out loud.

Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says

Look beyond the 'widow virgin' and you'll find an endearing historical romance novella between a bookworm many may relate to and a hero that knows what he wants.

Thank you, Christina, for recommending this book for a buddy read! :)

Ang says

A solid 3.5 - I found the seduction to be very hurried but I liked the characters. It could have been a full story instead of novella and I think I would have enjoyed it more. When it is so quick, logic intrudes on my romantic notions and I can't help but find it unbelievable. But since a novella, I get it. This in no way deters me from Eloisa James though - she is one of my favorite historical romance writers.

Hannah says

ARC REVIEW

A Gentleman Never Tells is a continuation of Eloisa James' The Essex Sisters series. That was a great series it was one of the first series I had read by her, it's what hooked me, so I'm ecstatic that it is continued with this one. It fits in perfectly with the others in the series with its romance and humor with just the right amount of angst. It's a short and cute little book, well novella.

Lizzie Troutt was forced to marry a man for his title by her Father. Her father wanting all his girls to marry well, arranged her marriage in hopes that he would fall madly in love with her. Little did her Father know

that right after the wedding her new husband would dropped her off at the house without touching her and left to live with his mistress. It's been eighteen months since his death and Lizzie isn't mourning his death as much as the life she could have lived. Lizzie's deliriously happy sister keeps pushing her to join society again but Lizzie just doesn't have the motivation to do so.

Oliver Berwick life is now different than it was in his youth. He was left the guardianship of his niece by her two parents who left to Africa to do missionary work. Oliver has always regretted how he behaved in his younger days and when his niece gets invited to a house party he finds his chance to finally make amends with one of the people he hurt. Oliver was asked to do two things make Lizzie laugh and get her to go out riding. It was no hard task for him, Oliver is drawn toward the beautiful Lizzie and wants nothing more than to see her smile. But Lizzie has spent far too long, way too many years believing she is far from desirable that, while Oliver's attentions are nice, she doesn't quite believe him.

Overall, I really enjoyed this new story from The Essex Sister's series. It was nice to see some of the characters again and Oliver really is a sweetheart. I really like his seduction technique.

Debbie I Heart YA Books says

A Gentleman Never Tells is a Historical Romance full of humor, wonderful characters that you will fall in love with, and sensual, sexy romance. After eighteen months, Lizzie is still mourning the death of her husband. But truthfully, she's really in hiding from the humiliation and embarrassment of the way her husband died: in his mistress's bed. Lizzie's older sister, Cat, has had enough of Lizzie hiding and sets a plan in motion, asking Oliver Berwick to bring Lizzie back into the land of the living. Oliver, however, wants more than getting Lizzie out among the living again; Oliver wants Lizzie in his bed and to make the beautiful widow his wife. Lizzie is a woman scorned, and being under a man's control again is the last thing she's ever going to let happen. But, Lizzie can't help being drawn to this handsome and sexy man, so his bed might just be the answer to her problem of still being a virgin, since her husband was too busy with his mistress to ever get the deed done. But for Lizzie, marrying Oliver will never happen.

Oliver and Lizzie's romance had me smiling and swooning because of the sexy man Oliver. Oliver is a man already set in his ways, living a bachelor's life, but when he meets Lizzie the man is tripping all over his feelings for this beautiful woman. Lizzie is also going head-over-heels for Oliver, because she has never had a man flirt with her or a man's affections before.

Lizzie and Oliver's romance is proof that you never say never. I highly recommend A Gentleman Never Tells as a sexy, fun must read.

Bj says

4 "The Widow Finds Her Match" Stars.

Eloisa James' latest release is a romantic novella built around a second chance at love motif. Demonstrating

her signature creative talent and adeptness at weaving in some comical, witty scenes (remember the rented pineapple in *My American Duchess!*) into her romances, *A Gentleman Never Tells*, was a short and entertaining read. For example, some of my favorite scenes included certain "plum" references and rather inventive croquet game playing.

Married off to gain a title, her "husband" never quite treated Lizzie Troutt as more than a means to money -- though it wasn't for her lack of trying to gain his affections, even if she wasn't attracted to this older man. So when he passes away, in bed with his mistress no less, Lizzie is more than happy to never marry again. Instead preferring to escape into the fantasy world of her books, Lizzie has shunned society for over a year. Her sister, however, is determined to see her happy again and enlists the help of the Honorable Oliver Berwick, a man with his own past woes, to make it happen.

But when a person's spirit is broken, is it ever possible to break through and make them believe that second chances at happiness are truly possible?

All in all, lovers of Ms James' special, funny and sweet romances will not want to miss *A Gentleman Never Tells*.

Source: Review copy provided in exchange for an honest review.

Brooke Showalter (Brooke Blogs) says

A Gentleman Never Tells by Eloisa James is a novella in the Essex Sisters series. I haven't read the others in the series, but that didn't stop me from enjoying this delightful regency novella. Lizzie was married to an oaf named Adrian who spent all of his time with his mistress. After his death, in the arms of his mistress no less, Lizzie has become to a shell of her previous self. Even 18 months later, she wears her mourning/half-mourning clothes. She stays in her room reading, not wanting to ride horses, come down to dinner or even laugh any more. She is of the mind that life for her is pretty well over, due to the notoriety regarding her husband's actions. Lizzie is at her sister Cat's house for a fortnight and her sister is trying to get her to rejoin life...and is playing matchmaker a bit as well.

Oliver Berwick is coerced into attending a house party by his young ward, his niece Hattie. He is quite reluctant about attending, and feels badly about his part in a group that made up awful nicknames for ladies in their youth, including Lizzie's sister, Cat. She tasks Oliver with bringing Lizzie back to life again. What follows is a wonderful, romantic story of what can happen when you give life another chance. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

eARC received from publisher for review purposes. A positive review was not required. Only my honest opinion is shared in my review and it is not influenced in any way. Review originally appeared on Brooke Blogs.

Sarina Bowen says

This was great! This author never disappoints, and this novella was adorable. Loved the ending. Loved the silly niece and her shenanigans. If you're not sure you like historical romances, this little nugget of love will convince you that you should.

Caz says

This charming novella is loosely related to Eloisa James' *Essex Sisters* series by virtue of the fact that the heroine's sister is friends with Josie, Countess of Mayne. The central romance develops quickly – over the space of a couple of days – but it's well done, with plenty of humour and crackling chemistry between the two leads which enables the reader to buy into this whirlwind courtship without the need for the suspension of too much disbelief.

Lizzie, Lady Troutt has been a widow for just over eighteen months. Not unusually for the time, her father chose her husband for her and chose badly; Adrian Troutt only wanted Lizzie's money so that he could continue to live with his long-term mistress. Poor Lizzie had no idea of that until her wedding day, when her new husband unceremoniously dumped her at his mother's home, told Lizzie to look after her and waved goodbye. Hurt and disillusioned, Lizzie ran back to her father – who sent her right back and basically told her to get on with it.

Adrian's unorthodox living arrangements were widely known, which naturally made Lizzie into a figure of fun or pity, and his death 'on the job' only served to increase her notoriety. In the year and a half since his death, all Lizzie has wanted to do is to fade into the background, stay at home and read her beloved books.

Her older, happily married sister Cat, Lady Windingham, is worried about her, though. Lizzie used to be vibrant and quick-witted but has become entirely self-effacing and reclusive; she seems to be holding herself responsible for her late husband's faults, and Cat wants to shake her out of her gloom. She extracts a promise from Lizzie to attend the house-party she and her husband are holding and hopes to find a way to bring Lizzie out of her shell.

Oliver Berwick still feels guilty over some youthful indiscretions that caused hurt to a couple of young women in society. When the opportunity to offer both ladies an apology presents itself, he grabs it, accompanying his fifteen year-old niece (and ward) to Lady Windingham's houseparty. Cat makes Oliver very welcome, but Lizzie is quiet and aloof, making a reluctant appearance at the dinner table that first evening and skipping breakfast the next day, simply to avoid meeting him again. Oliver is funny, charming and far too handsome for Lizzie's peace of mind; and besides, she doesn't want a man. Widowhood comes with certain benefits, one of which is not having to be subject to the dictates of any man ever again, even a gorgeous, amusing and surprisingly straightforward one.

Both Lizzie and Oliver are such well-rounded, engaging characters, that it's not hard to get to know them quickly and to feel that they're part of a longer story. It's easy to understand what has driven Lizzie to want to hide herself away and to sympathise with her insecurities; and it's clear that Oliver has grown up to be a conscientious, caring man. He is sweetly smitten with Lizzie from the start and determined to coax her out of herself and show her that not all men are selfish bastards. Lizzie is wary and at first wants nothing more than to hide away; but – and here I thoroughly applaud the author – Lizzie starts to realise ON HER OWN that she is doing herself down by dressing in drab clothes and living vicariously through the books she loves. I loved watching her succumbing to the warmth of Oliver's personality and his gentle teasing, but I also loved that she was finally standing up for herself and discovering the women she was supposed to be.

In spite of the short page count, Ms. James manages to create a genuine connection between her central couple and to add in some swiftly but ably drawn secondary characters, too. **A Gentleman Never Tells** is a fun, quick read that can be enjoyed by fans as well as those new to the author's work.

WTF Are You Reading? says

Oliver Berwick is a man with a conscience. A conscience which will not rest until a wrong left unrighted for some 18 years, has been addressed. Little does he know that his repentant heart, coupled with the urging of his most vocal niece, and a little old fashioned manipulation will all work to bring his once darkened soul the lasting reprieve that is true love.

Lizzie Troutt is a woman who has made herself at home on the shelf of widowhood. Denied the chance to be a wife, by her now dead philandering husband. Lizzie believes herself to be content to lose herself in books. Sure in the knowledge that she will never again dare to lose her heart to any man. Until fate, a house party, and her sister Cat's good karma, step in to shift the winds of change Lizzie's way for the better...and this time, forever.

The story told in this enchanting novella is brimming with the same detailed and seamless story craft that Ms. James employs when writing her full-length novels. Because *A Gentleman Never Tells* has been streamlined to a mere 112 pages. The story presented offers a very detailed glimpse of the how's when's and why's of Oliver and Lizzie, and makes for a much more whimsical tale.

Though Lizzie's sister, Cat, is a worthy catalyst for this rather impromptu romance, readers are able to quickly transition from Oliver's past transgression against the now happy Cat, and his present attraction to her very wary sibling.

To say that things between our leading man and his lady happen suddenly, is a huge understatement. These two are practically ripping each others clothes off within hours of their meeting. Who knew that a game of Croquet could be so...arousing?

In this case however, Oliver and Lizzie's passions are a double-edged sword for the plot. While their steamy and lightening fast romance does hold reader interest. It also tends to overshadow all other nuances of the story until the epilogue.

A Gentleman Never Tells is a charming testament to the belief that there really is a "home for every heart." Even if you have to play Croquet in the house to find it.

Billiebumblebee says

Haha I don't even know how to rate this! It's so good but so bad but so good. It made me laugh both at it and with it so I'm perfectly content with this quick read.

Jenny says

At this point, I'd forgotten all about the Essex sisters. There have been a lot of books under the bridge since then, as it were. However, this book achieves something a novella rarely does--the ability to stand alone. Oliver and Lizzie's story is the perfect confection for a miserable summer day. Though they do fall in insta-love, it's believable. I may change my mind upon reading it a second time, so we'll see how it holds up.

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

This one was just good fun. And sometimes that's exactly what a reader, or at any rate this reader, is looking for.

Oliver is just so earnest. He really needs the element of whimsy (and occasional hair-pulling insanity) that his niece Hattie brings into his life. She lightens him up, and he needs that lightness, even as both he and the reader want to shake his sister. Oliver has become Hattie's guardian not through the usual tragedy, but because his sister and brother-in-law have run off to Africa to convert the locals to their version of Christianity.

Hattie is much, much better off with Oliver. And is old enough to understand that she is. She also seems to be permanently plotting to bring him out of himself, and to get her own way. She and her best friend connive to do both, dragging Oliver to a house party at Lady Windingham's two days early, so that she has more time with her best friend.

Fifteen-year-old Hattie has yet another ulterior motive. Back when Oliver and his friends were young and insufferable, they put about a whole series of cruel witticisms about various young ladies in the ton. Those witticisms set back the victims marriage prospects considerably at the time, even though all was well that ended well.

Lady Windingham was one of those young ladies, and Oliver needs to apologize for helping to attach "The Woolly Breeder" to her name.

But when Oliver discovers Cat Windingham's beautiful but withdrawn sister Lizzie Troutt, he develops more than a few ulterior motives of his own.

As part of his apology to Cat, he makes a deal with her. He will make Lizzie laugh before the rest of the guests arrive. Including a man that Cat hopes will convince her sister to marry again.

Oliver plans to get there first.

Escape Rating B+: *A Gentleman Never Tells* is light, frothy and just plain fun, even though I haven't read the rest of the series. (But now I plan to!)

Both Lizzie and Oliver very seriously need to lighten up, and the best way they can do that is with each other. While Oliver's tenacious courtship and the sparkle of their banter carries the story, one of the

underlying points is the often exasperated but always loving relationship between the sisters Cat and Lizzie. Even though they are currently driving each other crazy, they clearly want the best for each other. And Cat will stop at nothing to make sure that her sister gets a chance at happiness.

There is also a deeper layer underneath the froth about the way that guilt eats away at a person. Oliver feels guilty about the young ladies whose lives he and his friends attempted to ruin through their cruelty. And he has become an old sobersides to punish himself for his youthful peccadilloes. Those ladies deserve an apology, but he needn't wallow in guilt for the rest of his life. If Cat and her best friend Josie (see Pleasure for Pleasure for details) are any indication, he seems to have accidentally done them each a very big favor.

Lizzie is also wallowing in guilt, along with a much healthier dose of anger. But being angry at dead people never gets a person anywhere at all. Her husband was an ass, and dying in his mistress' bed was his last act of asshattery. But not before he blamed poor, inexperienced Lizzie for his inability to consummate their marriage. As I keep saying, and as Oliver says, her dead husband was an ass.

That Lizzie is both a widow and a virgin is its own delicious and shameful secret. It also fires Oliver's desire to make Lizzie his and only his. Before his would-be rival appears on the scene.

But his real opponent is Lizzie. After her experience, she has absolutely zero willingness to trust another man with her fate or her future. Her father knowingly bartered her into the arms of her late asshat husband, a man who openly intended to spend her dowry and his nights with his mistress, while leaving her to care for his dying mother in a run-down house with few servants and even fewer comforts. When her father wouldn't take her back, she swore off the entire male gender and was prepared to make it stick.

It takes more than a bit of persuading for Lizzie to see that either Oliver is an exception, just like her sister's loving husband, or that her late, unlamented husband was just a singular ass and not a representative of his whole species.

Watching Lizzie and Oliver come out of their respective shells and find each other is just oodles of fun.

Reviewer's Note: I will admit that the virgin widow trope is a personal pet peeve. It always seems like a contrivance to arrange for the ritual romantic deflowering by the hero, even when the heroine is no longer a dewy debutante. My two pence.

Christine Wallflower & Dark Romance Junkie says

This novella was the perfect little teaser to get me intrigued enough to start reading the Essex sisters series by Eloisa James. This is book 4.5 in the series and while it might be a novella it packs quite a punch. As I said I haven't read the books preceding this one but I definitely kept up with the story and I can safely say that it could be read as standalone. And if like me you were wondering if the series would be something you'd enjoy I would definitely recommend trying *A Gentleman Never Tells*.

The story for all intents and purposes is quite short, obviously since it's a novella. Lizzie is a widow, her husband having died while attempting to tupp and I quote "Shady Sadie". She's a proud bookworm but lately she's been using books to hide from the rest of the world. Something prior to marriage she would have never

done. So when her sister forces her to join family and guests at her home while she entertains them. You can imagine how distressed she is. Until she meets Oliver.

I'll stop right there because I don't want to giveaway the entire story. But I thoroughly enjoyed this little story. There was some lovely humor and some sweet and sexy moments too. I've added the Essex sisters to my never ending TBR!

ARC kindly provided by publisher via Edelweiss in return for an honest review
