

**The Enchanted April by Elizabeth von Arnim****1**

- 1 She was tall and thin. Her clothes were dull and old-fashioned.
- 2 It was dull.
- 3 (a) In Italy. (b) For one month. (c) April.
- 4 He became angry when she forgot things.
- 5 (a) That they should rent the castle together.  
(b) She did not really agree, but she said she could find out about the rent.
- 6 Clever, amusing books about bad but beautiful women.
- 7 Because there were often days when she and her husband did not see each other.
- 8 *Student's own answer.*

**2**

- 1 (a) Eight. (b) £60. (c) She went to her bank and took out £60. She took it to Mr Briggs' house.
- 2 (a) She had to pay half the rent. And she had to pay for her food and her fare to Italy. But she could not ask her husband for money, and she only had £90. Her husband would not let her spend most of it on a holiday.  
(b) Mrs Arbuthnot and Mrs Wilkins put an advertisement in *The Times* for two other women to go with them to San Salvatore.
- 3 She was rich but she was unhappy and bored.
- 4 Because she said she wanted references from the other women.
- 5 Because she thought she would be able to get her own way once they were in Italy. If she said that references were necessary, the others would not let her go with them.
- 6 (a) £100. (b) She gave it to the poor.
- 7 He said that he would take her to Italy the next month. It was a terrible afternoon because Mrs Wilkins had to tell Mellersh about her plans.
- 8 They felt tired and worried.

**3**

- 1 It was nearly midnight. It was raining heavily.
- 2 Because they did not understand what he said. They did not speak Italian.
- 3 Because when he turned round to look at them, they waved their arms. They were trying to tell him to look in front, not at them. He thought they meant he should go faster.
- 4 They could smell them.
- 5 Because they did not know any Italian.
- 6 (a) Mrs Wilkins. (b) Mrs Arbuthnot. (c) Because they were happy when they arrived at San Salvatore. They began to use each other's first names because they knew they would be friends.

**4**

- 1 The sun was shining and the sea was flat and calm. The air was full of the scent of flowers. The gardens were very beautiful.
- 2 Her husband, Mellersh.
- 3 The previous morning.
- 4 Because she did not want to be friends with anyone.
- 5 Because she thought she was the most important person there.
- 6 Because Lady Caroline and Mrs Fisher had had two beds in the rooms they had chosen. They had asked the servants to move the second beds from their

rooms into the rooms where Mrs Wilkins and Mrs Arbuthnot were going to sleep.

- 7 She thought that she should be the leader because she had made the arrangements to rent the castle from Thomas Briggs. Mrs Fisher did not agree.

**5**

- 1 (a) Because she and Mrs Wilkins had found San Salvatore, but Mrs Fisher thought it belonged to her.  
(b) That it was silly to worry about it.
- 2 There were many different gardens. Each had different-coloured flowers. Some of the gardens were near the house. Others were lower down, nearer the sea. Stone steps led down to these. There were orchards below the gardens.
- 3 Her husband, Frederick.
- 4 She thought that Mrs Fisher was Lady Caroline's mother. And she thought that Lady Caroline was married.
- 5 No.
- 6 (a) She decided to keep the light and pretty sitting-room for herself. And she made sure that no one could use the door which opened onto the terrace from the other sitting room. (b) She did not wait for the others to come to the dining room. She started eating her own lunch. And when Mrs Wilkins and Mrs Arbuthnot arrived for their lunch she sent them out again to find Lady Caroline.
- 7 (a) No. (b) To be left alone. (c) No.

**6**

- 1 Mrs Fisher found Lady Caroline in the garden. Lady Caroline was smoking and Mrs Fisher said, 'I don't like women smoking.' And she told her that she should go to bed. Lady Caroline said that she did not want to go to bed, she wanted to be quiet and to think. Mrs Fisher said that women's heads weren't made for thinking. She said that pretty young women were made to be looked at. Lady Caroline said that she did not like being looked at. Mrs Fisher replied, 'And I don't like modern young women.'
- 2 Because they had found the sitting-room which Mrs Fisher wanted to keep for herself. Mrs Wilkins was using Mrs Fisher's pen and writing paper.
- 3 'Poor old thing. Let her have the room. It doesn't matter.'
- 4 (a) Her husband, Mellersh. (b) Because she had come to Italy without him, when he had planned to bring her. (c) She had invited Mellersh to come to San Salvatore.
- 5 That she had changed. When she was in London, she wanted to get away from her husband. Now she wanted him to be with her.
- 6 No.

**7**

- 1 Lady Caroline came to dinner in a pretty pink dress, which was thin and which left her arms bare. Mrs Fisher said, 'You must be very cold.' And when she noticed that Lady Caroline's wine glass was empty, she said, 'Too much wine is very bad for you.'
- 2 That each of them could have one guest.
- 3 She said it was like 'standing in a winter wind, getting colder and colder.'
- 4 There were six bedrooms. The four English women each had one, and Francesca the maid had one too.

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- 5 In the sixth bedroom. Because she thought she would lose her freedom, shut up with her husband, night after night.
- 6 No. She probably said it to make sure that Mellersh Wilkins would have to sleep with his wife if he came.
- 7 (a) Lady Caroline had time to think about herself. She wanted to be friends with people now, especially with Lottie Wilkins. (b) Mrs Fisher was able to walk without her stick, and she felt very well. But she was no longer happy with herself. She felt she was too often alone. (c) Mrs Arbuthnot wanted her husband to be interested in her again. She loved San Salvatore, but she wanted someone to share its beauty with her.
- 8 Because she was trying to find out more about Mr Arbuthnot, and Mrs Arbuthnot would not tell her anything.

**8**

- 1 Lady Caroline called Mrs Wilkins 'Lottie'. Mrs Wilkins called her 'Caroline'.
- 2 Mr Wilkins could not read the instructions, which were written in Italian. He turned off the hot water tap too soon, and the stove blew up.
- 3 He knew that Lady Caroline was there. Her family was very rich. Mr Wilkins thought Lady Caroline's family might need a good solicitor, like himself. He was always looking for business.
- 4 Because she sat at the head of the table. We don't really know. But she did tell him later that she had to be careful with her money.
- 5 He thought that people from important families like the Desters never did housekeeping.
- 6 He suggested they should give the cook some money every day to buy the food.
- 7 She said she would pay the bills which Constanza had brought for the housekeeping.
- 8 He had noticed that Lady Caroline wanted to rest.

**9**

- 1 Because she had made some very useful friends.
- 2 At first she tore them up. Then, on the first day of the third week, she gave one to Domenico to post.
- 3 It was making her feel young again. She was restless. She could not sit still.
- 4 Because she had written to her husband. Mr Wilkins had replied by telegram to his wife's letter. She thought her husband would do the same.
- 5 Thomas Briggs.
- 6 He remembered her dark eyes and her sweet, round face. There was an old painting at San Salvatore which he thought looked exactly like her. He wanted to see her there.
- 7 To see if it really did look like her.
- 8 He only wanted to be with Rose.
- 9 She had become happy at last.
- 10 He fell deeply in love, but with Lady Caroline.

**10**

- 1 No.
- 2 He had come to call on Lady Caroline.
- 3 She thought he might keep Thomas Briggs away from her.
- 4 Thomas Briggs had made her feel pretty and amusing again. Now she wished her husband could see how dif-

ferent she was.

- 5 (a) They are the same person, Rose's husband. (b) She thought he had got her letter and had come to see her.

**11**

- 1 Lady Caroline.
- 2 'Welcome to San Salvatore, Mr Arbuthnot.'
- 3 (a) Because she was beautiful. (b) A cold and selfish person.
- 4 (a) He thought Lady Caroline and Thomas Briggs were going to fall in love. (b) She took hold of his arm and led him away.
- 5 They had all changed and they were all completely happy.