



## The Elusive Lord Everhart

*Vivienne Lorret*

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**Vivienne Lorret, the *USA Today* bestselling author of *Winning Miss Wakefield*, returns with a new series featuring the three roguish bachelors of Fallow Hall.**

Gabriel Ludlow, Viscount Everhart, will never marry, and thus is sure to win the bachelors' wager amongst his friends. Assuming, of course, that his deepest secret—a certain letter containing a marriage proposal made in a moment of passion—doesn't surface. After all, without Calliope Croft to tempt him, there's no danger of losing. Or of falling in love.

Calliope wants revenge. Five years ago, an anonymous love letter stole her heart and ultimately broke it. Now Casanova has struck again, and Calliope vows to unmask the scoundrel, stopping him from breaking any more hearts. Yet, time and again, Gabriel distracts her from her task, until she can no longer deny that something about him calls to her...

Gabriel was a fool to ignore the depth of his feelings for Calliope, but the threat that kept him from her five years ago remains. Now he must choose between two paths: break her heart all over again or finally succumb to loving her... at the risk of losing everything.

## The Elusive Lord Everhart Details

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## From Reader Review The Elusive Lord Everhart for online ebook

### Gaele says

I've decided one thing in all my reading: while as a child I was always wanting a brother or sister – I'm done with that idea. Siblings are a second layer of plot-twist in the story of life. In *The Elusive Lord Everhart*, Lorret brought that concept home in spades with Calliope's older brother (and friends) more than ever.

Calliope is settled into her place on the shelf with reasonable comfort. Years ago she received a letter that fueled her childish romantic fantasies, and her obsession with finding the author of the letter has spoiled her for other men. Well, all but one.

Gabriel, Viscount Everhart is one of a group of friends, including Calliope's brother Griffin. Well, acquaintances actually as Griffin and Gabriel often spar at the boxing club – much to Gabriel's demise. Laid up with a fracture, Gabriel and two of his friends are staying in Fallow Hall, when talk turns to wagers. They decide to wager on marriage: these three confirmed bachelors decide never to marry for the next year. The Crofts, Calliope, her brother Griffin and his new bride Delaney are traveling from Bath to Scotland via the Northern Road. A cousin of theirs is currently recovering from a carriage accident, and Griffin feels honor bound to stop and visit.

From here, Calliope comes face to face with her crush, Gabriel, but is unaware that he was the letter writer. But, she's always had a crush on him, and despite her brother's more than determined warnings to Gabriel, they start on their journey to love.

Starting quickly and introducing several characters into the mix right off, the voices of Calliope and Gabriel are solid from the start, and show us Calliope's openness and her willingness to take a chance. Even feeling uncomfortable in the home of the man she had refused to marry so many years ago, her willingness to deal with a difficult cousin and her excitement about their journey is clear.

Secondary characters are intriguing and well developed: Rafe is a pot-stirrer and devilishly mischievous: Lucan is far more the debauched and seasoned rake and gambler. There is a dog with five names, that perhaps answers to one, one newly married man, Brightwell and his overly spoilt and utterly pampered wife Pamela, and the interplay between the characters adds nicely to the mix and gives plenty of depth to the story surrounding Calliope and Gabriel.

With constant interactions as they dance about one another without really admitting to the attraction, their relationship grows neatly although not without twists, to their happy ending. As Calliope is 24, and past her majority if not entirely self-ruled, she's an interesting character that brings plenty of interest and fun to the story.

I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher via Edelweiss for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

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### D.L. Carter says

## **41% before I gave up**

Sorry didn't find anyone in book sympathetic or interesting. Recency era norms completely ignored. Going to re-read Jane Austen for the brain cleaning

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### **Melanie says**

I loved Vivienne Lorret's previous series, Wallflower Weddings, so I was happy to start this new one.

I can't say that I didn't like it, but I just didn't find it as good as all the other books I've read from this author. I think the reason for it are the main characters and the back story baggage they both carried almost through the end of the book. On top of that, there was a wager between the hero and his friends that made sense at the start of the story, but lost its effect as the story progressed.

I also found it hard to believe that Calliope would fall in love with an invisible man who'd written her a love letter, and then finding out that the same man had written other women as well.

And even though our hero grows throughout the book, I still found him lacking.

I did find that the story was fast pacing and I also liked the secondary characters, especially hero's friend fun and entertaining. I'm looking forward to their stories. Not bad, but could have been better.

Melanie for b2b

Complimentary copy provided by the

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### **Judy says**

This book was just average for me- I didn't really like it or dislike it. I liked the beginning and the end, but the middle moved very slowly and I almost made it a dnf. I got confused at times about the Casanova letters, and I still feel I missed something. I already have the next book in the series, and will give it a try.

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### **Andrea says**

OH BOY. What a fun, intriguing, and romantic story. To say that Lord Everhart is elusive is putting it mildly!

I have many thoughts about The Elusive Lord Everhart swirling through my head. Good thoughts, to be sure. I want to share them, in great detail, but honestly, much of the fun and beauty of this book is uncovering the pieces as you read. I will say that the author did a wonderful job in creating a unique plot, with the perfect amount of angst and romance. Calliope was a treat, and though I had my doubts about Lord Everhart, the rake won me over. He gives good grovel.

I will say that although *The Elusive Lord Everhart* can be read as a standalone, it is strongly tied to Lorret's *Wallflower Weddings* series. Not so much that I was overly confused, but there were established relationships/connections that I had to put together in the opening chapters. On the bright side, I now have that series on my to-read list!

I'm a picky reader. I try to only pick up books that I feel confident I will enjoy. For some reason, I had a good feeling about *The Elusive Lord Everhart*. I was right. And not only did I have the pleasure of a good story, but also in knowing I have a new author to follow. I'm very much looking forward to the next of the *Rakes of Fallow Hall* series.

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### **Tanya says**

Vivienne Lorret graces us with the start of a new spin off series from her *Wallflower Wedding* series, *The Rakes of Fallow Hall*, and I couldn't be happier (insert squee). In this first installment, *The Elusive Lord Everhart*, we see a twist on long-lost-love-realized between Calliope Croft, sister to Griffin Croft, and Gabriel Ludlow, Viscount Everhart.

You see, both Calliope and Gabriel harbor a secret from five years ago. Calliope, set to be married to the Baron Brightwell, receives a love letter from a secret Casanova. At which point, she decides this mystery man her one true love and respectfully terminates her engagement. However, instead of the Casanova revealing his identity to Calliope, he goes on to write six more love letters to other maidens of the ton, thereby leaving Calliope broken hearted. However, Calliope never loses hope that perhaps this man could still be the one. As the years go by, her fantasies turn towards thoughts of revenge on the man who toyed with her heart, though she continues to harbor a tendre for the author's poet within. Hence she keeps the letter with her always and tells no one of its existence, even after the other letters emerge.

Gabriel Ludlow, Viscount Everhart, harbors a similar secret. As the author of said love letters, he has never been able to forgive himself for sending that very first letter. He's even more angry at himself for lacking the courage to follow through with his amorous intentions, only to leave Calliope without a husband and him with a burden of guilt. Not to mention an angry sparring partner in Calliope's brother, Griffin, who astutely connects the dots between his sister and the Viscount.

Now five years later, Calliope is on a mission to discover the identity of the Casanova and bare his identity to all of the ton. Traveling with her brother and new sister-in-law, Calliope finds herself at Fallow Hall, visiting her cousin Pamela, who is now married to Brightwell. Also in residence are Rafe Danvers, Lucan Montwood, and Gabriel Ludlow, as well as another love letter to none other than her cousin! Perhaps her Casanova is amongst these men and has decided to strike again?

While all three men are attractive, Everhart steals Calliope's heart even considering the cold reception he has shown her over the years for turning down his friend. Calliope wrote off Everhart as the potential Casanova years ago, but can't help finding herself attracted to the one man at Fallow Hall still displeased with her actions five years ago.

Likewise, Gabriel is in shock that the woman he could never have is now staying with him at Fallow Hall.

Unlike five years ago, Gabriel can't walk away from Calliope. And the more he interacts with her, the more he realizes his love for her hasn't waned. Only this time, he decides he will make her his bride. Too bad he'll

need to compete with his former self.

The Elusive Lord Everhart will not disappoint lovers of historical romance. And how Lorret handles the final love letter to Pamela? Just genius. It gave me warm fuzzies to the point that I hugged my nook. Can't wait for The Devilish Mr. Danvers.

For the full review check out my blog at [heroesandheartbreakers.com](http://www.heroesandheartbreakers.com)  
<http://www.heroesandheartbreakers.com...>

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### **Sommertime says**

I probably would not have read this book if I hadn't already read book 2. That book is a winner. This book not so much. Too much time spent with the plot not moving forward at all. This book was just OK.

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### **Nouka Vang says**

She fell in love with a letter... seriously??!! I don't really know what her feelings for Brightwell were before she read the letter but honestly how do you just disregard your feelings for another person after reading a letter from a secret admirer. There were times where she would reflect and ask herself how her life would be like should she have married Brightwell. It made me think she was fickle. I just couldn't get past that.

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### **Lexie says**

Related to her "Wallflower Weddings" books, the start to Lorret's "Rakes of Fallow Hall" series begins as many historical romances I read tend to do--there's a wager, a former romance and meddling friends/family/servants/pets.

I really only have one *true* quibble with this book and its that the whole Casanova Letter angle got confusing at times and I felt Calliope obsessed over it a rather long time (the less said about the cowardly nature of Everhart pre-story the better, though I'll get to this in a second). I also think quite a bit less of Griffin (who seduced, wooed and wed Delaney in Finding Miss McFarland, of which I had no issue with him at all in that book) for his involvement. I understand he was looking out for his sister, but it was a case of sticking his nose in and making things infinitesimally worse.

Calliope and Everhart's exchanges bored on racy for much of the book--no complaint here--even as he insisted nothing was happening and she insisted that he detested her (even as he is giving her a seductive but "medicinal" neck rub. That included kissing and nibbling her neck. A lot.) I did wonder at Pamela and Brightwell's marriage; later he is talking to Calliope about the nature of his wife that sounded for all the world like a man disenchanted with her. I couldn't quite make out how anyone seeing the two of them together would believe them "wildly in love".

Everhart's grandmother was a hoot (so many tend to be in historical romances nowadays) and I quite liked

her set down of Everhart's father.

Everhart though...look. A lot is made of the fact he runs away from confrontations/problems he doesn't want to face. He didn't want to deal with the stifling nature of his father's house so he ran off to sea. He didn't want to deal with his responsibilities so he gads about town. He hurt Calliope and betrayed Brightwell's trust so he went on an expedition. But none of that irresponsible reckless man if evident, ever, in this story. I could not for the life of me believe that 5 years previous he just abandoned Calliope and dealt her such a low blow, helped along by her brother's threats or otherwise. It just didn't seem AT ALL in character.

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### **Farrah says**

I really liked this book. It was sweet and a really lovely romance, complete with secrets and a few twists along the way. I thought it was wonderful.

Calliope was a really likable character. She endured heartbreak but refused to let it weaken her. And she knew better than to hold a grudge when it would stand in the way of her own happiness. I thought she was great.

Gabriel changed a lot over the course of the book. He started off seeming shallow and flippant about others' feelings. But, after being forced together with Calliope again, he showed his kinder and softer side. And, he proved that he loved deeply and would do anything for the one he loved. I really lied him as well.

The romance was lovely. Calliope and Gabriel definitely had a strange courtship but they proved to be a perfect match. Not to mention the heat that sizzled between them.

The story moved quickly and I enjoyed it from the start. There were a few interesting turns along the way and the ending was perfect.

The Elusive Lord Everhart was a delightful historical romance that I really enjoyed. Romance lovers, this is a book worth checking out.

\*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

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### **Melody May (What I'm Reading) says**

Posted on What I'm Reading

All right, I got a chance to read Vivienne Lorret's The Elusive Lord Everhart. Oh man, I don't know where to begin with this story, because it was sure entertaining.

First off, we have Calliope Croft and she's firmly on the shelf after receiving a love letter from Casanova. She fell in love with the words that she didn't seek out anyone else. Unfortunately, nothing ever came to fruition, which now she's destined to be an old maid. She's a bit odd, so that doesn't help her cause. I don't mean odd in a bad way, but more like a dreamer. A great way to describe her is she always has her head in

the clouds. However, she decides she's going to find out who Casanova and seek out revenge for being put on the shelf. Now Gabriel was a bit full of himself when he wrote those letters, and he figures that he has nothing to worry. He feels that won't see Calliope and can keep his feelings hidden. Funny how fate plays a roll in shaking things up. So, he has to decide if he wants to bury his feelings for Calliope or make a go with her.

I love stories that contain a bet on who's going to end up leg-shackled. In the long run they all get marry by the end, and it's fun to see them fall one-by-one. What makes this a fun story is the cast of characters. Especially, the guys and how they egg one another. However, there was one character that kind of drove me nuts, and it was Calliope's cousin Pamela. She does serve a purpose, even though she's a self center selfish person. Overall, The Elusive Lord Everhart is an entertaining read and I can't wait to see who is the next to bit the dust.

Copy provided by Avon via Edelweiss.

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## **BookMaven says**

### **Read the First 20 Pages. Last 150 Pages. Skip the rest.**

Gabriel Ludlow, Viscount Everhart, has rented an estate with two of his fellow bachelor-friends. Another of his friends, Lord Brightwell, and his wife, Pamela, were staying with the three bachelors, also. Pamela was recuperating from a carriage accident. Now Griffin Croft, his wife, Delaney, and his sister, Calliope Croft, were coming to check on their cousin, Pamela. All this company was growing tiresome, but it was beyond the pale when Calliope Croft decided to stay to keep her cousin company, without her brother and his wife. And both Pamela and Calliope were obsessed with the Casanova letter writer!

The first 20 pages of the book sets up the story, then we are told how each maudlin character moves from lunch to dinner, to bed for the whole 1st half of the book. Finally, midway, we are actually treated to a plot. And it was too little, too late. By then, I barely cared. I wouldn't have finished the book at all, but I had already read Rafe Danvers' story, the second book in the series. That book was 5 Stars all the way. So glad I picked it up first! And I wanted to hear more about Rafe, so I purchased this book.

Toward the end of the book, there were some romantic overtures that were good, and a couple of fun conversations, but, mostly, this book was just a test of how bored I could get without giving up on this book. It was interesting to read about some of the characters from the Wallflower series. However, on the whole, I need more action and interaction.

This series of the Bachelors of Fallow Hall is anchored around the premise of a bet that the three friends would not get married before the year end. The bet seems to be of little significance in the two books that I have read, though, so reading about that is just wasted as far as moving the plot along. Vivian Lorret can turn out a 5 star book, but imho, this one is not it.

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## **Lover of Romance says**

### **Summary**

Calliope, received a letter that made her fall in love with the man who wrote it, but when she learns that he wrote six other letters, to six different women, she decided that she would find his true identity and reveal him, and ruin him just as he has ruined her. Gabriel Ludlow, knows that there is one woman he is drawn to more than any other, a woman he can never have. He made a foolish mistake, a mistake so that she could find some happiness in her life and move on from him, but to this day he still hasn't forgotten her. While residing at a country house, with a group of his buddies, they make a wager, a wager to see who can stay unmarried the longest, and those that do marry must forfeit a large sum of money. Gabriel never imagined that his friends, would see how much he cares for Calliope and try to play "matchmakers" at every golden opportunity. Calliope is confused, because Gabriel is a man who could make her fall in love again, he stirs a passion in her she never imagined, so will her plan for revenge win out or will her love for Gabriel overcome any obstacle facing them?

### **The Hero**

Gabriel Ludlow, is the Viscount of Everhart. But has shirked his responsibilities, due to his mother's death, seeing how her death practically destroyed his father, Gabriel refuses to risk opening his heart to someone, only to lose her and become a shell-like his father has been. Gabriel has a bit of wander lust, loves traveling, but his love of travel has given him purpose, until he meets Calliope. Gabriel is a hero that is torn between what his brain tells him and what his heart is urging him to do. Gabriel at first is afraid to trust in love, or the woman who has always held his heart. but then he sees that she needs him just as much as he needs her. Gabriel is a hero to sigh over. He is outrageous at times, stubborn to the point of extreme, but what a sexy man he is..he is deliciously wicked.

### **The Heroine**

Calliope, is a woman scorned and refuses to back down. She has had her heart tied to a man she has never met, but feels like she has known forever. But then she ends up in the same household as Gabriel, and sparks fly. She can't resist the desire she feels or what his kisses do to her, but she also wants more than just a few kisses and touches. She wants the whole package. But she is also on a mission, a mission she refuses to give up on. Calliope I had mixed feelings about. She is tenacious and passionate, too stubborn for her own good, but she tended to not have the type of backbone I would have liked in a heroine in this situation, at first I didn't know what to think of her, I thought her "mission" a bit too drastic at times, but it is what made the story a bit more interesting. I started to really like her, she is opinionated, and stands on her own two feet, and I loved how she interacted with Gabriel.

### **Plot and Story Line**

The Elusive Lord Everhart is a wonderful story, and this is my first of this author, so I found it to be very enjoyable and had that feeling to it that makes you feel captured by the story. I loved the set up of the story, it seemed to be very flirty and engaging, and the characters were quite endearing to this reader. I think what I adored most about this story, was the wager, and see Gabriel and Calliope muddle through a few conflicts before they even got close to their HEA. It's not a insta love story right away, you see how it goes much deeper than that. I loved the way the this story unraveled in ways you didn't expect. The side characters were a hoot, boy do I love his friends, they are so silly at times, and a bit outrageous in certain scenes, but that is what made the story have a bit of flair to it. We also see the bit of mystery on finding out the real author of the letter (which we suspect from the beginning) but I definitely was on edge a bit, wondering when our heroine would figure it out and how that would come about. I loved the intimate scenes between Gabriel and Calliope, they were sensual and warm and got my attention, but not to hot that I felt uncomfortable. It

seemed that the author stroke a balance between the physical and the emotional side of the relationship. We see the way that these two slowly fall in love, that it begins as an unsteady friendship and then turns into something deeper. I didn't care for the cousin of Calliope, at all, she tended to be spoiled and a brat, but I adored Gabriel's grandmother..she was utterly delightful. This is a story that any romance lover will enjoy.

#### The Cover

Now I will say this might be one of my favorite historical romance covers this author. I love the whole reclining on the bed or sofa pose, I love her spilling on the side, and those muscles....where can I find him??? I want to keep him. LOL

#### Overall View

The Elusive Lord Everhart is a splendid romance that blends together a delicious love story, a wager between buddies, some misunderstandings, a feisty grandmother, and a tale of broken hearts and passionate love.

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#### **Brandy says**

Both MCs are intelligent people. The plot and pacing are perfect. There is a believable timeframe for the story to occur. With great secondary characters that add to the plot without distracting.

Finally got to hear more about these characters. I say finally, but I binged 6 or 7 books by this author in about 4 days. So really I only had to wait two days, but that is completely beside the point. Their story didn't disappoint. I'm hooked on this author now and I'm following her on Amazon to make sure I don't miss anything new. I really shouldn't be surprised because she is an Avon author and the quality and depth of the stories that come through that publishing house are always on top. Thank you Ms. Lorret for a wonderful story.

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#### **Pamela says**

What a lovely cast of characters and a charming story! Of course, Pamela was a real piece of work! :)

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Vivienne and found her to be such a sweetie. I'm looking forward to reading many more of her books.

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