



## At Last

*Jacquie D'Alessandro*

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Sophia Mallory, Countess Winterbourne thought she'd left her handsome Scottish lover behind in the highlands. But when Ian Broderick shows up in a London ballroom, Sophia realizes her past is about to catch up with her, and the scandal could cost her everything.

## At Last Details

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# From Reader Review At Last for online ebook

## **Lisa Montgomery says**

The widowed Countess Winterbourne (Sophia Mallory) thinks the Earl of Marlinton a groundskeeper when she had a fling with him. She flees Scotland before he can tell her the truth.

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## **Andrea says**

I really liked this story of a couple reunited after a rocky breakup. Unlike a lot of historical stories that I have read lately, this one was much easier to follow and understand. The outcome is pretty predictable but it held my attention nonetheless.

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## **Amanda says**

Sweet

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## **Karla says**

**3 Stars!** Ian Broderick...YUM!! He was worth the read!

Sweet, short May/December romance! This author has knack for putting a big story in a small package, unfortunately, this one didn't feel quite as complete as her other shorts. Maybe 10 more pages, give or take, a little more time in the present with Ian and Sophia, and we would have had another winner. Aside from that, it was an enjoyable way to spend an hour. There is no doubt that this author is a gifted writer, and chooses her words carefully to craft some great stories!

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## **Karen Darling says**

Short and sweet.

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## **Sha Mslvov says**

A quick enjoyable read

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## **Rosie Comia says**

This is the first story of this author that I have read & I must say that I really enjoyed it. It's a sweet HEA novella between the Scottish Earl of Marlinton, Ian Broderick & a widow, the English Countess Winterbourne, Sophia Mallory. Theirs is a May-December relationship with Ian being younger by twelve years (25 to her 37). I find this novella delightful even though I know there'll be a HEA at the end. I liked Christine Archer, the Viscountess Handley & Sophia's best friend for not being judgmental & by just being a true friend. I loved Sophia's son Edward for being so understanding of her mother's feelings.

I just wished that there was an epilogue even though this is just a novella.

Looking forward to another Jacquie D'Alessandro story.

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## **L Bongiorno says**

One of the stories in the anthology *The Mammoth Book of Scottish Romance*. At Last another good story in this anthology. I was about to give up on it, not caring for the last four. This one pulled me in again:)

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## **Becca says**

This is a short story.

Ian and Sophia have a short, but blissful affair in Scotland with neither being completely honest about their identities. Then, Sophia suddenly leaves Ian behind and he spends the next 6 months searching for her in order to finally make her his wife. The story picks up at this point and there are glimpses of their affair told in flashbacks.

I really liked Ian's character, his dedication, his beautiful proposal, and his willingness to do whatever it takes to be with Sophia despite her reservations and her older age (12 years older). Sophia is a wishy-washy character and though I understood while she left him the first time, I didn't understand her continued unwillingness to accept Ian. And then, overnight, she changes her mind. Perhaps this is my 21st century sensibilities clouding the issue, but I just felt like there was a lot of angst and then everything was neatly tied up really quickly. I guess that is the shortcoming of short stories (ha! pun!).

Anyways, overall, the writing was still lovely and I enjoyed the read. It just didn't give me a lot of feels. The hero was lovely though.

*This short story is also found in the Mammoth Book of Scottish Romance.*

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## **Maura says**

This is a very short historical story. Sophia Mallory, widowed Countess of Winterbourne and Ian Broderick, a Scottish earl, met and had a love affair in Scotland without either knowing much about the other, including their titles. Realizing the futility of their love, Sophia left and Ian spent the next six months pining for her and searching desperately for the woman he loved. He finally finds her, they kiss, but Sophia won't marry him and stands by her decision to leave. No matter how much she loves him, they cannot have a future together. But Ian refuses to accept it.

Eh. It had a promising start and definitely packed quite a bit of angst into 50 some pages. I mean, Ian's heartbreak and his desperation come across clear on the page and when Sophia says she loves him but cannot marry him and walks out of his life again - devastation. Ugh. But I also felt frustration with the damn woman. She claims to be afraid of scandal for the sake of her son. But Ian comes to her with an honorable proposal that wouldn't be scandalous, but might have people talking about their age difference. That's not really going to hurt her son's future, especially since he's a mature 15 and she can talk to him about it. And this is something I'd think someone who was REALLY in love would be willing to do to be with the person they loved...you know rather than risk breaking the other person's heart and living the rest of their lives without that person. She doesn't do this....she says no. It isn't until the next day, when scandal breaks because she was seen kissing Ian, that she abruptly changes her mind and says, "Oh well. The scandal's out, there goes my excuse. Sure, I'll marry you." Just like that. I didn't feel like she loved him enough to risk anything and her giving in then seemed lazy...she didn't even feel relief that she could finally be with him because of the scandal. Ian deserved someone better.

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## **Crista says**

I can't help wishing.....If only this would've been a full length novel!

Ian Broderick and Sophia Mallory meet one summer afternoon and begin a whirlwind affair that sweeps them both off their feet. Neither of them reveal their true identity and let one another believe that they are both "commoners". In reality, Sophia is a widowed Countess and Ian is the Earl of Marlinton. Sophia is also twelve years older than Ian.

Sophia sees this relationship as impossible and leaves Ian one night with only a hastily written goodbye note as an explanation. Ian is determined to find her and spends the next six months searching for his lost love.

Ian Broderick is the stuff that dreams are made of. He was simply an awesome hero and his love for Sophia was clear and honestly communicated. I struggled with Sophia's resistance and her reasons for denying Ian. Ian's declaration of love to Sophia is alone worth the read, and I love this author's way of communicating deep feelings in very few words.

I loved this book and wish it would've been longer. I wanted to experience their affair and the time they spent together that made Sophia unforgettable to Ian.

A quick and heart felt romance.

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### **Jadzia says**

My rating is actually 3.5 stars. It's always hard to rate such short stories, but this one was fine. Nicely written, with coherent storyline, but the reason of conflict between the heroes was just not my type.

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### **Lord Rose says**

It was okay, I guess, but I just didn't find myself that interested in it. Even with it being as short as it was, I just couldn't get into it.

And I *hate* matchmaking children. Even more than I dislike matchmaking friends and relatives.

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### **Angel \*\*Book Junkie\*\* says**

Short sweet and every bit worthy of a free read. I really enjoyed this short story and felt connected to the characters. This is something that normally I find hard to do in a novella. Jacquie does a good job of writing a story and making you feel for the characters as you read her story. Ian Broderick is sexy and awesome and did a great job of making me drool.

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### **Ariella says**

A amazing read. I love the characters. I can't wait to read the authors other work.

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