



The Once and Future Love

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Anthony Davis, A-list Hollywood star, is adored by millions for his talent and striking good looks. Approaching fifty and feeling the pressure of competing with younger stars, he realizes that despite all he's achieved, he's alone and lonely. Then Anthony encounters Rob Harrison, who tutored him in college, at a fundraiser. Despite the chemistry between them back then, Anthony chose his career over love, and he recognizes the mistake he made at last. As he leaves the fundraiser, he glimpses a shooting star and makes a hopeless wish... asking for another chance with Rob. A story from the Dreamspinner Press 2012 Daily Dose package "Time Is Eternity."

The Once and Future Love Details

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From Reader Review The Once and Future Love for online ebook

Ami says

Hollywood A-star, Anthony Davis is rich, famous, admired, and completely alone. When Anthony encounters Rob Harrison in a fundraiser at the same day that he celebrated his 50-years-old birthday, Anthony is reminded that his fame doesn't mean a thing without someone to share it with. Rob is the one that got away -- Anthony had a chance with him, one date back in college 30 years ago, but he blew it up because of his road to fame. So, when Anthony sees a shooting star that night, he makes a wish to have another chance, to make Rob his ...

This is another "going-back-in-time-to-get-the-second-chance" theme that I read with the past two days. Coming from new author (I'm slightly a bit weary with new authors lately), I find it quite enjoyable read.

I love how Anthony is trying to woo Rob, the second time around, using his experience in acting -- reading the lines of Shakespeare.

The story also gives the right balance of what Anthony is feeling at present (regret, loneliness), when he goes back to the past (all the things he tries to fix with Rob), and again the present, with different kind of life since he changes something in the past. It's sweet but not over the top. Just right for my taste.

Becca Waldrop says

Sweet little story. And a reminder some things are more important than other.

Serena Yates says

The topic of second chances, as in actually going back in time and taking a left instead of a right, so to speak, is fascinating to me. I think it is partly because I know we cannot actually do it, and partly because the thought of "what if..." can lead to very interesting thoughts. Or, in this case, a very sweet story.

Anthony has it all. He is a famous actor, something he always wanted, he is rich and, even at 50, he still looks good. He also realizes that all of it means absolutely nothing without someone to share it with. A specific someone. Anthony is lucky in that respect: he doesn't only realize that he has wasted his life, he also knows exactly what he did wrong. The intensity of his realization is heartbreakingly.

Rob is a very skeptical man. He doesn't think very highly of Anthony, and has so far resisted all of Anthony's attempts to get him to go on a date with him. Rob is also open to changing his mind, but he wants proof. This time around, Anthony is ready to give it to him, and Rob couldn't be more surprised. Doesn't mean he becomes a push-over, but at least he listens...

I loved that Anthony got it right when, miraculously, he does get a chance to go back to the pivotal event that will allow him to re-make his choices. The disorientation as well as the hope he feels when he is suddenly back at college was very well described. If the idea of a do-over of an entire life sounds fascinating to you, if you have always wondered what it would be like to have a 20-year old body but the experience of a 50-year old man, you will probably like Anthony's story.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Leaundra says

Awww this was a sweet story about second chances. I love time travel stories:-)

Lillian says

In the eighties, after reading thousands of romance novels, I discovered time travel romance novels. I could get the romance and my junky-like fiend-ing for sci-fi all-in-one. What could be better? MM romance and sci-fi via time travel, of course. Ari McKay's "The Once and Future Love" gives this literary addict a justifiable reason to throw out those 12-steps. I've discovered the wisdom to know the difference and decided I want to read. Personally I'm not a big fan of sitting around with friend or family pondering the "what if," questions. Seriously, accept your life and your choices and get over yourself already. But, this "Once and Future Love" had me rooting for second chances (and that is so not me).

<http://lillian168.blogspot.com/p/what...>

Heller says

Anthony Davis is a star. A star who just celebrated his 50th birthday. He's got it all but he's lonely and wondering if it was all worth it if he has no one to share it with. This is further emphasized when he runs into the one who got away, Rob Harrison, his former college tutor.

Sad and trying not to dwell on the what ifs he makes a wish on a falling star and time falls back to where he can decide what's more important to him. Love or fame.

This is a wonderful little story about second chances. This gave me what I crave in do-over romances like this, the "Back to the Future"-esque ending that floods us with the new reality. Loved that.

Monika says

I really wanted to give this story 5 stars and at the beginning I thought it was headed that way. The more I got into it the 'sweeter' it got and I'm not into that much sweetness but that's just me.

I loved Anthony and Rob there was such chemistry between these two. I loved the time travel aspect, I loved how these two got a second chance but from the time the story got to where it was present time I had a hard time getting through it. I honestly think if the story was longer and didn't have to rush the present time this could have been a 5 star read.

If you're looking for something fast, sweet and different The Once and Future Love might be just the thing for you.

Nagisa Furukawa says

Very sweet.

CrabbyPatty says

Lovely story about getting a second chance at love. AND lines from Shakespeare's *Macbeth* Scottish Play

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"Suddenly the words were there, and he actually felt the despair that Macbeth must have felt in realizing that all his deeds, for good or ill, were meaningless. He understood the bitter irony of it as it related to his own life, his triumphs and tragedies nothing but fleeting events that would be forgotten as soon as he was gone. When he'd lost his chance with Rob, somehow he'd lost everything that mattered. "

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, creeps in this petty pace from day to day, to the last syllable of recorded time, he said, his voice hoarse. He looked at Rob, unable to hide the emptiness he felt inside in knowing that Rob could never be his.

And all our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death. Out, out brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more. His throat felt tight, but he had to finish. *It is a tale, told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying... nothing.*

Bookbee says

Yes, perhaps it's a little too sweet but, DANG!, wouldn't most of us love a "Do-Over"? And can I just say that I loved that Anthony thought kindly of Ben at the end. (I was actually feeling badly for him.)

Cole Riann says

Review posted at Brief Encounters Reviews.

4.5 stars

This was an all-around heartwarming read that I really enjoyed!

Anthony is an A-List Hollywood actor who wakes up on the day of his 50th birthday alone and regretful. He has everything now that he thought he wanted -- he has a brilliant career that he got by sacrificing everything that would now make him happy as his career naturally declines with his aging looks. He spends that evening at a fundraiser for Berkeley, his alma mater as a guest of honor and runs into his old flame. Well, Rob is the only man that Anthony ever really felt he could come to love, and they never even got to have their first date. All those years ago in college, he finally wore Rob down until he agreed to a date, then stood Rob up for an audition that turned out to be the big start of his career. But seeing Rob again brings up all those old feelings, especially seeing Rob on the arm of another man. He wishes he could go back and change everything, now that he's realized that having Rob would have meant so much more than fame, fortune and adoration by millions.

This second chance story is a very, very common plot, but one that is sort of tried and true. It seems like every other year another movie comes out with this same plotline. I think that these authors (who this is their first published story, by the way) could have easily changed this plot to make it new and exciting but I'm glad they stuck with the simplicity of it. The writing is solid and very easy flowing and the story works because since we've already seen this plot over and over, the story becomes about the characters, and I really liked them.

Anthony is the one that gets a second chance here. He's our narrator and as the story moves through time we get to see him at different points of his life. From, at 50, almost tired and in a since finally grown up, but way too late -- to back in his college days, where we get memories of how shallow and driven he is towards his career, then shown through the light of his newfound understanding after having gone back in time. This is shown well through the first meeting after the time shift. Rob is Anthony's Shakespeare tutor and even while Anthony has been trying to wear Rob down and get him to date him, he's also been shallow and he doesn't care at all about Shakespeare, preferring new, modern words and roles to play. He doesn't understand Shakespeare at all, nor try to. Seeing him then, after he's in effect finally matured to Rob's level (now being a 50 year old in his young body), he understands and uses Shakespeare to show Rob that he's really serious about life and getting to know Rob. That was one of my favorite scenes, which worked well as one of the scenes where the character is shown just a bit out of place and time.

I'll definitely be reading anything this duo publishes in the future. Like I said, I really enjoyed this story because it didn't try to mess with such a solid and well-known plot. Others might disagree, because this is a story that we've read and seen in movies before. Still, the characters here make this story original, and I really enjoyed them. I don't really have any complaints and I'm happy to give this story an A- rating!

Meggie says

This is a sweet, warm even if short romance. Anthony, the MC, learns that there is only one wish he never got in his successful Hollywood life. To be the lover and the life partner of Rob Harrison, who was his college tutor. This shorty is warm and sweet.

Sandra says

Free from Dreamspinner Press on 5/31/13 during a TweetAway!

Lucy says

Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews

Second chances, that's what most of the time travel stories are about, and this one is no different. What I liked most about this was, Anthony did lose out on Rob back then. But it wasn't some bitter terrible thing he did. They weren't even a couple. What they were was a possibility, a chance. The chance, that's what Anthony gave up. When he looks back on it, it seems momentous, but at the time, it just seemed easily solved. Ambition won out. This is Anthony's chance to make sure love wins out, and it's very sweet.

DayDreamer says

3.5 stars

It would have benefited from a little expanding, although it was just fine the way it was too. Had it been longer, I'd have postponed it till July.

It was sweet, but not too sugary for my taste.
