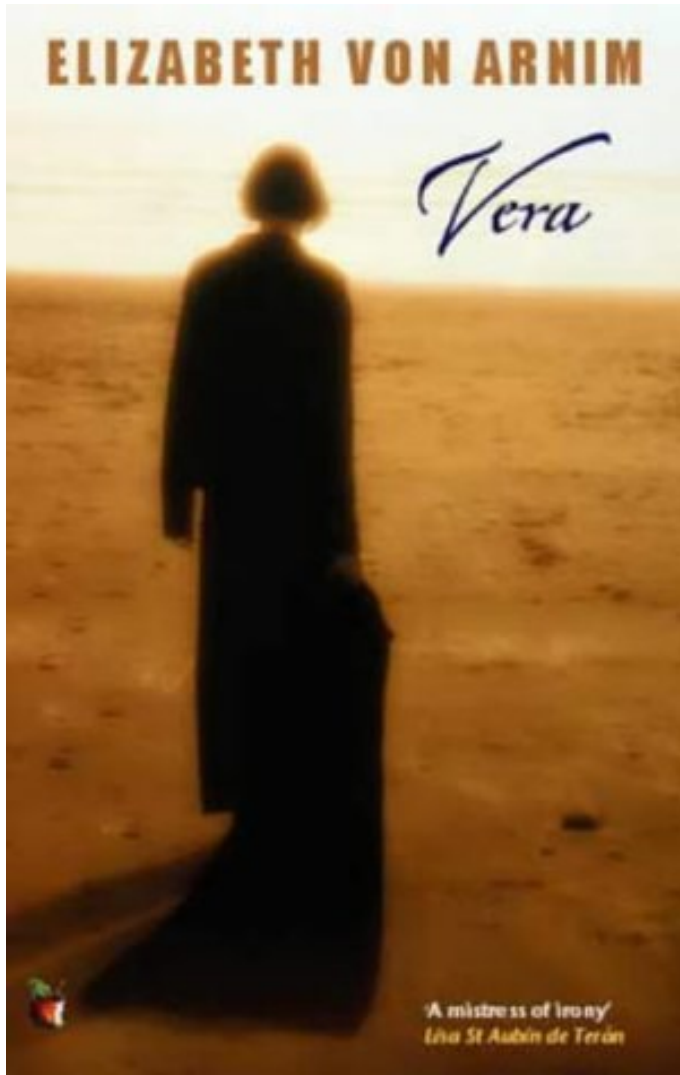

Elizabeth von Arnim

Vera



Title: Vera

Author: Elizabeth von Arnim

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 336

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Description

First published in 1921, *Vera* is a darkly comic story about Lucy Entwistle and Everard Wemyss. Both have recently lost someone close to them as the first chapter opens. They meet and at once believe they have found a soul mate in each other. As their relationship progresses we come to understand more of each character's past. Most importantly we learn about Wemyss' late wife, Vera. What at first appears to be a different and quirky romance turns out to be an indictment of egoism and dominance in relationships.

Insightful reviews

Herman Gigglesworth: *Vera* is an obscure 1920s novel that I found through the Project Gutenberg Project blog.

The third-person limited narration takes on the personalities of several characters, mainly Lucy Entwistle, Dorothy Entwistle, and Everard Wemyss.

Everard may remind you of Edward Rochester at first, given he is significantly older than his love interest, and there are suspicious rumors about his first wife. Others are reminded of the characters in the later and more famous book *Rebecca*. Everard, however, has no redeeming qualities or comeuppance. He is obsessive-compulsive and psychologically abusive. If his birthday does not go exactly as planned, he will make his wife beg for forgiveness. Sleeping at the "wrong time", or going into his library "unauthorized"? Or getting over a cold later than you thought you would? He will let you know. How does he know you're sleeping, you might ask? He watches her like Edward Cullen, only Elizabeth Von Arnim knew better than Stephenie Meyer and portrays it as creepy rather than romantic. Everard tries to prevent Lucy's relatives from seeing her, like Edward does with the werewolves in *Eclipse*. He also has a servant write down every message, in case someone is talking on the phone without his permission. There's a good reason Lucy reads *Wuthering Heights* and *Thomas Hardy* towards the end of the story. .

The ending is abrupt and unsatisfying, though there are hints that Lucy might run away, because she is reading travel guides. We also never find out what happened to Vera.

Still, it is an interesting read, and fairly short by classic standards. The fact that it's based on one of Elizabeth Von Arnim's marriages makes the story creepier.

Daniela: As a big fan of Elizabeth von Arnim's light and uplifting novels ([The Enchanted April](#) being my favorite), I was very curious how she would handle this "exploration of sex and violence" as the description of the VMC edition summarizes *Vera*.

Now that I have read it, I think "sex and violence" is a bit lurid, but it left a deep impression on me nonetheless and I bow my head to von Arnim for creating this masterpiece.

In a nutshell, this is the story of Wemyss, a man in his forties who has just lost his wife in an accident, and 22-year old Lucy, who has just lost her beloved father. They instantly feel drawn to each other in their shared grief. At least that is what Lucy thinks. As a reader we quickly see Wemyss for what he is - not a grieving widower, but a narcissistic, obsessive-compulsive bully, and all we can do is watch Lucy walk towards her doom, namely her marriage to him.

Von Arnim gives us such a realistic account of emotional abuse that it was hard for me to take at times. The fact that she based this on her own marriage adds another level of creepiness.

Von Arnim's characteristic wit offers some comic relief throughout the book, but it is still one of the scariest, most depressing books I have read. The mere fact that people as disturbed and powerful as Wemyss exist in real life gives me nightmares, and I am so glad that we live in a time where it has become harder for men like Wemyss to exercise power over women like that (at least in the western world).

Highly, highly recommended.

Sarah: As depressing as this book is, there's something so comforting in Von Arnim's clear, sweet authorial voice. She writes with such poignant simplicity, the truth just rings out. I adore her.

Carolyn F.: It took me awhile yet i ultimately found out I had learn this ebook before. Everard's spouse commits suicide and Lucy's father dies after they meet one another on certainly one of Everard's walks. they appear to hold to one another which becomes love after which Everard begins his machinations. He desires what he desires how he wishes and while he wishes and he does not care approximately anyone yet himself. His emotions are continuously damage and Lucy is apologizing for each actual or perceived slight. The finishing is gloomy yet i feel if Lucy will get the energy to leave, at the very least she'll have her Aunt Dot. This e-book used to be challenging since it was once written as a tricky book.

Catherine Keyes: It was once no accident that Elizabeth von Arnim known as this, her top and darkest novel, "Vera" as the notice vera in Latin skill "true" or "truth". even though she stored the main points veiled from public view, the author's friends and family knew why she fled from her moment husband and that this novel used to be her autobiographical reaction to that marriage. This novel offers worrying perception right into a dating managed by way of a psychological abuser and it simply might have been written via someone who had skilled psychological and emotional abuse by the hands of an expert. As always, von Arnim's beautiful use of language is a excitement to learn and, with it, she is ready to show to the reader the sinister and intangible nature of this sort of control.

Michele: A fantastically written account of the beginning of a disastrous marriage. It used to be the writing that saved me enthralled as I have to admit I found the location a bit of implausible. No longer that Everards are not in existence, unfortunately either female and male are all too real. I wished to offer Lucy a slap and get her to get up and order the coffee. Everard was once vile from the outset and so predatory. Love Aunt Dot although and clearly desire that a few of her spirit is located in Lucy and she or he rises. Reminiscent in many ways of Rebecca, which in fact got here after, yet Vera is especially a lot darker. Must were an exceptional one though, stayed up past hour of darkness to finish.

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