

Linda Charlotta E.



*In the Arms of
The End*

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For the reader:

This book contains mature themes.

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*This book is a love letter to Mimmi.
The only thing that makes the thought of dying
bearable is getting to be with you again.
Still, I wish you were here to see this.*

*This book is also a love letter to myself.
Don't be afraid of dying; be excited about living.*

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call it "the present".

Eleanor Roosevelt

Part One



Chapter One

365

*W*elcome to Artanges Manor!

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to our dear guests who have chosen to make Artanges Manor their home away from home. With a history dating back centuries, our manor house has witnessed the passage of time and the stories of those who have once called it home.

We invite you to experience the charm and elegance of our historic estate and discover a timeless retreat nestled in the heart of the picturesque town of Aramore.

In this brochure, you'll find everything you need to know about your stay, our lovely estate, and what to do inside the manor walls or out in the town. Our family is always around and you may at any time ask our suggestions.

May your stay be filled with moments of relaxation, adventure, and cherished memories that will linger long after you deppart.

Autumn sighed hard enough that the brochure flickered under the puff of air.
Deppart.

She had been continuously asking her parents to order a new batch of brochures without the awkward typo, but it seemed they hadn't. She would have done it herself, but they came from a family friend whom her father insisted he would contact himself. She would just have to remind him again. How delighted her father would be.

Next to the brochure were polaroids of a happy couple smiling at the camera. One of the pictures had the couple standing side by side, an awkward smile on the man's lips. He was in his twenties, and his partner was significantly older, perhaps in her fifties. In the other picture, the woman was in his arms. They looked genuinely happy, nevertheless.

Autumn recognised the pictures had been taken in the garden, under the big apple trees. The angle seemed to be her mother's, who she was sure had been their photographer.

The couple was visiting from Luton, checking in the previous day. Autumn had checked them in, and she had paid attention to the passion between them right away—they could hardly keep their hands off each other. The manor was a romantic venue, so it wasn't uncommon for couples to visit and have their love hormones spiking.

Autumn took an empty glass from the nightstand next to the box of condoms. A lot of passion indeed.

The wind made the curtain dance by the open window. The couple had been lucky with the weather yesterday and taking their pictures then, as the rain was now drumming against the window. The fresh scent of rain blew in with the wind, and Autumn went to close it before the rain could get inside. They had recently had water damage in one of the guest rooms, so there was no need for any more of that.

As she closed the window, she saw Ed walk outside with his toolbox, unfazed by the rain. Of course, this was Britain; they all were unfazed by a little rain. She made a mental note to chat about another guest room's broken window with him whenever she saw him again.

“I don’t think we ever have as much time as we think we do. If anything, each day we have less and less.”

Autumn has spent nearly thirty years at Artanges, a charming British manor turned bed and breakfast, surrounded by family and history. Life at Artanges is serene, predictable, and safe—until a mysterious guest, William, checks in for an extended stay.

After recent tragic events, Autumn finds herself adrift, her once-stable world crumbling. Surprisingly, it’s William who becomes her source of comfort, gently coaxing her out of her shell and teaching her to savour life’s small joys. As their friendship deepens into something more, Autumn begins to confront her fears and learns to embrace life, even in the face of the unknown.

Romantic and mysterious, *In the Arms of the End* is a poignant tale of love, loss, and the courage it takes to embrace life even as we confront our deepest fears.

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