



The One I Was

By Eliza Graham



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Restless, troubled Rosamond Hunter has spent most of her life running away from the past, filled with guilt about her involuntary role in her mother's death. When her nursing job brings her back to Fairfleet, her childhood home, to care for an elderly refugee, she is forced to confront the ghosts that have haunted her for so long.

Her patient, Benny Gault, first came to Fairfleet, England, in 1939, having fled Nazi Germany on a Kindertransport train.

As his health fails, he and Rosamond begin to confide in each other. At first their tentative friendship revolves around the love they both shared for Rosamond's glamorous grandmother, Harriet, but as their trust in each other grows, guilty secrets are exposed and history is turned on its head.

From the acclaimed author of *Playing with the Moon* and *Restitution* comes a beautiful and haunting tale of friendship, redemption and forgiveness across generations.

Revised edition: This edition of *The One I Was* includes editorial revisions.



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The One I Was By Eliza Graham Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

It's quite a while since I read a book with quite so much meat on its bones...

The Bookbag

'Eliza Graham crafts a poignant story of identity and legacy in THE ONE I WAS, posing the question of how much past events define us, and whether we can ever break free of our damaged selves to truly start anew. In this novel as in life, there are no pat answers. Beautifully done.'

Kristina Riggle, author of Real Life and Liars and The Whole Golden World.

A haunting and intricate tale

... The plot is constructed with such watchmaker's precision that to refer to any aspect of it trails a spoiler and violates the unity of the whole. Suffice it to say that the book is engaging, compelling and dramatic from the first page. It has some aspects of a psychological thriller; in other ways a doomed romance; and from another angle an involving historical novel. Readers of any of these genres will enjoy this book. If the intricacy of the story is remarkable, it never overwhelms the beautifully drawn characters.

Tim Stretton, author of The Dog of the North

'A beautifully crafted piece of literary fiction. ... Adding to the sympathetic characters, page-turning secrets, and bits of little-known history is a gorgeous style of writing'

The Happy Book Reviewer

'beautiful story that held me spellbound. A combination mystery, historical fiction and love story that was unforgettable'

Cayocosta72 -- Book Reviews

From the Author

The One I Was was titled 'Fairfleet' for the period of two years in which I wrote it, because the house itself seemed to be such a part of the narrative, almost a character in its own right. Eventually I changed the name, because a friend, rightfully, pointed out that it gave the book a nautical, if not naval, air! It is set in inland England, near the historic cities of Oxford and Abingdon, so I was worried that this would be misleading. The One I Was as a title popped into my head at a random moment and it seemed completely the right title for the book. Benny comes to England as a refugee from Nazi Germany and immediately realizes that to flourish in a new country he needs to reinvent himself into someone irreproachably English. But are we still the same people we were when we were children? And if you try and change yourself into someone else can you always succeed?

There are lots of other things in the *The One I Was* that fascinate me: topiary animals and peacocks. Appropriately, only last night, a few weeks after the book was published, a friend and I nearly jumped out of our skins when a peacock shrieked at us in the dark. A Spitfire plane also features in the novel as an emblem

of freedom and danger, completely irresistible for Harriet Dorner, female pilot.

About the Author

Eliza Graham spent her biology lessons sitting at the back of the classroom, reading Jean Plaidy novels behind her textbooks. In English and history, however, she sat right at the front, hanging on to every word. At home she read books while getting dressed and cleaning her teeth, and during school holidays she visited the public library several times a day.

At Oxford University she read English literature on a course that regarded anything written after about 1930 as too modern to be included. She retains a love of Victorian novels and the poetry of the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries.

Eliza's first novel, *Playing with the Moon*, was longlisted for Richard & Judy's Summer Read category and named one of the World Book Day 2007 'Books to Talk About.'

Find out more about Eliza on her website, elizagraham.co.uk, and follow her on Twitter @Eliza_Graham.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nicole Rockwood:

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Fran Short:

The particular book The One I Was will bring someone to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to study, this book very acceptable to you. The book The One I Was is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Alice Scales:

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