

The Romantic Stories of Edmund Cooper

It is probably worth noting, or emphasizing that Edmund did not stop writing romantic stories for women's magazines when he began writing SF novels. For a few years at least, he was doing both. In the list below are titles of some of Edmund's romantic stories, the dates given are from letters between him and Valerie. Mostly, these dates indicate when the story was written or when it was sold; but it's possible that some stories were written earlier. Although "Woman's Illustrated", and later "Woman's Day", had a 'first sight' option on his romantic fiction, some were rejected by these magazines and then offered elsewhere. He was always pleased when the quality monthly "Homes and Gardens" published his work and Sentimental Journey sold to the American "Saturday Evening Post" though they later rejected "The Miller's Daughter".

<i>Title</i>	<i>Writing/Sale Date</i>	<i>In Anthology</i>
The Thirteenth Veil	January '57	No
The Obstacle Race	February '57	No
Love in the Spring	"	No
The Great Romance	"	No
Honeymoon for Four	"	No
The Primitive Touch	April '57	No
Godiva Rides Again	"	No
Angry Young Man	January '58	No
Problem Child	February '58	No
One Plus One	April '58	No
The Long Moment	May '58	No
The Little Voices	"	No
The Mobile Man	June '58	No
That Psychosomatic Feeling	August '58	No
The Miller's Daughter	"	Voices in the Dark
The Silver Dagger	"	No
Sentimental Journey	February '59	Voices in the Dark
Back Seat Driver	March '59	No
Serenade in Weybury Street	March '59	No
Silver Apples	September '59	No
Susan	October '59	No
The Ivory Tower	December '59	No
The Christmas Butterfly	January '60	No
Teacher's Pet	Undated, 1954 - 60	No
Here's to Amanda	"	No
Shakespeare and Salt Water	"	No
Tahitian Girl	"	No
The First Martian	"	Voices in the Dark/Tomorrow Came
Message in a Bottle	"	No

<i>Title</i>	<i>Writing/Sale Date</i>	<i>In Anthology</i>
Ragdoll and Teddy Bear	"	No
Orpheus in the Underground	"	No
The Snow Crystals	"	Square Root of Tomorrow/World of Difference
Calculated Risk	"	No

Most of these are romantic short stories, along the lines of: man meets woman, slight difficulty, they become a couple, the end. Some of these stories though have a twist at the end. For instance, the love interest in *Godiva Rides Again* turns out to be a traction engine! *Message in a bottle*, one of Edmund's favourite stories, which was twice read out on the radio, is about a couple meeting on the beach who are not revealed until the final paragraph as being only children. *Calculated Risk* is a rather odd romantic story that has SF elements that seem to link to the novel *Ferry Rocket*.

I didn't actually put the word 'churning' in the original text of *Almost Tomorrow*, but it is a pretty apt word. Edmund did write lots of short stories. In one week alone, in April 1957, he received 8 rejection slips!

Shaun