E's Mistake

A encounters B on the street and asks how his weekend with L was. B says he hasn't spoken to L in at least a month.

A is angry. He thinks E has been lying to him about L's activities.

E swears she has been telling the truth; B did say over the phone that L was about to arrive at his cottage out there in the country.

A is still angry, but not as angry because E thinks he was lying to E, announcing a visit by B that was not actually going to take place. At this point, with embarrassment, E realizes her mistake: more than one A is involved here. She said only that B was about to visit her for the weekend, and it was not the A that E and A knew but the A that only E knows, and only slightly, who was about to arrive at his cottage in the country. With some misgiving, E explains this to A. Now A is even more angry than before, but he is angry because E has entertained for the weekend an A he does not know instead of the A he knows. He is angry because the A he knows is an old friend of E's whereas the A he does not know must be a new lover. A declares he will not speak to E again except to ask her to send back the key. He will take her name out of his address book and refuse to hear any further mention of her from E or A. A cannot know, since he will not speak to her, that in fact a third A has become involved in this story, to the distress of the second A, for A's affections have already strayed from the A that E knows only slightly and that A does not know and fastens for life, she believes, on an A out there in the country unknown to them all.
"THE IMAGINATIVE THINKING WAS NOT THERE FOR THAT"