



## El jinete del diablo

*Victoria Holt*

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Minella Maddox debe decidir entre dos hombres: el heredero de la mansión de Derringham, que en algún momento pensó en ella como esposa, y un oscuro personaje que la somete a un implacable asedio, el conde francés Fontaine Delibes, un hombre apuesto y cruel, que veía en ella la amante que siempre quiso tener. El dilema de la joven la convertirá en el centro de intrigas y aventuras en el momento en que estalla la revolución en Francia. Una revolución de la que ninguno de los protagonistas puede escaparse.

## El jinete del diablo Details

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Author : Victoria Holt

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## From Reader Review El jinete del diablo for online ebook

### Cecilia says

Melodramatic and "clean" as far as romance goes (I know some people care about that). Although, IIRC the hero does smooch the heroine while his wife is still alive. And before he and the heroine get married. So maybe it's really disgustingly immoral.

Anyway, I might have read this book when I was a youngster, because I did read a lot of VH's books. Lately I've been working on reacquainting myself with them. I definitely got more of a thrill out of them when I was 12. This one is what I'm realizing is pretty typical - a grumpy hero, inexplicable attempts on the life of the innocent heroine, a young man who is nice and takes an interest in the heroine, a crazy old lady, and hordes of menacing possibilities.

In this particular case, you can add in "overwhelming stupidity" as the heroine decides to stick around in Revolutionary France when she has the option to get out. LOL. Yeah, not for love or money, my friends.

It was ok, not much more.

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### HÜLYA says

Bu kadar be?enece?inizi ummuyordum... Bo?una dememi?ler ne varsa eskilerde var diye....

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### Rage says

I actually didn't quite finish this book! the romantic male lead is a French nobleman (the Comte) during the French Revolution. there's a lot of weird politics included in this book. the Comte once ran over and killed a small child with his carriage, because he was in a bad mood and driving his carriage recklessly made him feel better - so he adopted the boy's twin and sends the family money. he has his own daughter sent away during a surprise pregnancy and the baby is fostered out and when the daughter comes home grieving, the Comte is like, she must marry as soon as possible (which makes the daughter even more sad). way back in the day, the Comte's dad had a dude imprisoned because he wanted to get at that dude's wife. I don't know, I think this French guy is supposed to be romantic because he's always played around and he doesn't respect or care about anyone, and the main character is supposed to be his One True Love who changes everything. ummm but he's been married the entire time he's talking to Minelle, this One True Love, and he keeps saying stuff like "but what if I weren't married...!" and Minelle is like oh man I need to get out of here, but then instead of explaining to anyone that this dude has asked her to become his mistress, and she doesn't approve, she just tells people she can't stay because she doesn't have any clothes, so they make her fancy clothes. and every time she has a conversation with him she has to run away from him back to her room, where she always notes that her face is flushed and her hair is in disarray. I just didn't want to read all of their creepy gross flirtations. especially when in the rest of the story all of these French people are sick of being oppressed and poor, while the aristocrats have been treating them horribly (as the Comte treats people). not romantic?! (view spoiler)

p.s. just wanted to see Minelle say something like this:

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### **Musical says**

Some of my favorite Victoria Holt books are out of print, such as *Manfreya in the Morning*. But this is an excellent example of her writing. So many romance writers today seem to think that explicit sexual acts and descriptions are needed for romance novels. But that is porn; not romance. Victoria Holt knew how to write true romance with always a bit of mystery thrown in! Highly recommend any of her novels.

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### **LuvGirl says**

Wow, what an interesting read! I could not put this book down, but surprisingly it was not because of the romance between the hero and heroine, which was sadly lacking. It was because of the intriguing story-line, the French Revolution, the plight of one of my favorite secondary characters ever (the heroine's spoiled best friend and hero's daughter, Margot), and then there was the love triangle between the hero and the heroine's other suitor Joel.

I never thought that I would enjoy a romance without any real romance, lol. The hero and heroine rarely spent much time with each other and when the hero was expressing his love for the heroine I was rolling my eye because I didn't understand how that could happen in just a few meetings. The romance was really just a back drop to everything else that was going on, but I was still captivated by the tale. Victoria Holt really knows how to tell a story. I thought the writing was excellent. 3.5 stars

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### **Julz says**

Synopsis:

From the moment that beautiful eighteen-year-old Minella Maddox saw Charles-Auguste, the haughty, arrogant Comte Fontaine Delibes, his satanic looks thrilled her with a sense of danger and excitement. The Comte, too, liked what he saw. He decided that he would marry Minella, and nothing would be allowed to stand in his way . . . not even his wife

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I just finished this and I'm exhausted. This one had me tied in knots with all the twists and turns.

The heroine of the book is the English daughter of the local schoolmarm who comes to the attention of the dark, and married, French Comte. When her mother dies, the school fails and she finds herself the companion of the H's daughter, who has her own set of aggravating issues.

The story is set during the time of the French Revolution, so there was that angle to add to the suspense. There were many conspiracies and dastardly deeds and everyone [illegitimate sons, adoptees, and OW (not just the wife)] was a suspect up until the very end, which was a serious nail-biter for me.

I noticed quite a few scathing reviews from those who, I imagine, didn't appreciate a married hero, so this might prove to be a dealbreaker for those who can't abide by cheating whoredogs. But if you like dark and dangerous anti-heroes, heroines that aren't exactly pushovers, and lots of seat-pinching excitement, then you might enjoy this one.

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### **Hailey says**

Do you love reading about the tension between two people as they fall in love, especially when the woman is beautiful, aloof, naive, and pursued by a man who is irresistible, possessive, and maybe just a titch evil? Then you'd love every Victoria Holt novel ever written (which is like 5,000)! *Devil on Horseback* is set in the months leading up to the French Revolution, which adds ANOTHER layer of tension! Yes!

Seriously, I cannot get enough Victoria Holt.

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### **Caz says**

I read lots of Victoria Holt's gothic romances when I was in my twenties. I still have several battered old paperbacks sitting on my shelves, of which *The Devil on Horseback* is one, although I haven't read it for quite some time. But when I saw it was one of the – sadly few – titles available in audiobook format, I pounced on it eagerly. *The Devil on Horseback* is narrated by Davina Porter, who I am sure many will recognize as the voice of the *Outlander* series (although I confess this is my first time listening to her). But I liked her voice in the sample I listened to; her precise delivery seemed perfect for a young, well-bred English lady of the eighteenth century, and I was intrigued to learn how she would handle the rest of the characters, the majority of whom are French.

The protagonist is nineteen-year-old Minella Maddox, daughter of a widowed schoolmistress. She and her mother run a small girls' school near the estate of Sir John Derringham and his family. Minella helps her mother with the teaching and befriends one of the pupils, Margot, daughter of the enigmatic Comte Fontaine-Delibes. Minella also attracts the attention of Joel Derringham, heir to the Derringham estate, something which thrills her mother, but which is not welcomed by the young man's parents. Davina Porter does a good job in differentiating the voices of the two Derringham men, and of Joel's two sisters, one of whom is clearly a lot friendlier than the other. She gives Margot a slightly husky quality and I could actually see her facial expressions in my mind on those occasions she was being dismissive (oh, the utility of the wonderful Gallic shrug) or mischievous.

You can read the rest of this review over at [AudioGals](#).

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### **Lynne King says**

This is the first Gothic romance that I have ever read and it literally amazed me. This was an impulse buy on my recent holiday in Wales. I was happy and relaxed; it was a sunny day and I was just yards away from the beach. It was initially the blurb that captured my imagination.

There is nothing better than someone who sparkles. I have a friend Lindsay who I have admired from afar for

many years and she is a veritable blue stocking. But the men love her. She gives off this air of intrigue and mystery and sort of “catch me if you can” but she is never caught. Perhaps for the brief interlude but she is too involved in her research work for Cancer Research. She was there when I was awarded my French degree and I was thrilled as she is so busy workwise. Academics are on a different level.

So I can see Lindsay when I think of “Minella Maddox, who secretly names her new employer the Devil Count when she first sees him astride a magnificent black horse. Although stung by his arrogance, she is compellingly drawn by his dash satanic looks and devilish charm. She accepts an invitation to France – as companion to his rebellious daughter.”

And in addition, as I soon discovered whilst reading, the novel had the backdrop of the French Revolution, a subject that has always fascinated me. Images of the tumbrils taking the aristocrats to their deaths at the Guillotine in the Reign of Terror, the roar of the crowds and the fear in the hearts of everyone in Paris that perhaps this was their last day on earth.

Here we have an extremely proud individual, Comte Fontaine Delibes, a man who automatically assumes he is entitled to take on whoever he feels as a mistress, it is his right as the owner of his estate at that time, and yet who brings an unbridled passion into the heart of this young girl just at the threshold of womanhood.

Minella is impressionable because she is new to the “needs and wants” of life. She is an eighteen year old girl who is being trained by her mother to be a school teacher, living on the estate of Sir John Derringham in Sussex. Whenever visitors came to Derringham Manor they would become temporary pupils and one of these proved to be Margot, the daughter of the Comte Fontaine Delibes. Her hatred for the count turns to intrigue and finally to love and he surprisingly enough (am I am so cynical) actually does love her and I being an incredibly romantic female (to my shame) fell for it hook line and sinker.

We all have choice in life and I do believe that our own destinies are somehow set out for us. By why would this young girl be so entranced with this self-centered count? Unfortunately, young girls are always intrigued by a challenge and this was to be had.

The word choice keeps vibrating in my mind as I think about this incredible book of passion, love, betrayal and the way that destiny prevails. So what does Minella decide? Well, to put it tritely, she follows her heart regardless of the outcome. Something that I have always done. We only have one life and as I look at the stars through my telescope, see this amazing galaxy and I still wonder...And I dream...

I just adored this book...Perhaps I will be able to find a first edition and that would just cap it for me.

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### **Naksed says**

A rather watery version of the much stronger plot and characters from Holt's fabulous *Demon Lover. Devil on Horseback*'s heroine is by contrast stupid, wishy-washy, and weak, while the male protagonist is too tamed and earnest to provide the frisson that a great, gothic, anti-hero could provide. But the most frustrating part of all this was that it took four fifths of the book to finally arrive at the French Revolution, which has been painstakingly hinted at through pages and pages of meticulously described minor incidents involving insolent servants and small acts of vandalism. But when the revolution actually happens, we are rushed at a dizzying pace through historical events, concluding in a rescue and escape to England seemingly copied

from the Scarlet Pimpernel's Handbook, "Rescuing aristos from Madame Guillotine for Dummies." Another couple of pages and Napoleon is now in charge! Wow. This book was very disorganized, meandering, dull, and uninspiring. I want to think that this was the poor, first draft that eventually became *Demon Lover*, which was a lot better thought out and memorable.

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### **Cphe says**

Not the best book by this author that I've read over the years but still enjoyable. I mostly liked the background of the French Revolution. The story revolves around the haughty aristocrat Comte Fontaine Delibes and a young English woman Minella Maddox. The Comte sees Minella and decides that he will have her, the fact that he is married won't stand in his way.

Being by Victoria Holt, I knew that the story would not be "PC" by any means but it was a surprisingly "clean" romance. I enjoyed the "tension" of a pre Revolution France and the chemistry between the devil may care Comte and the more grounded Minella. Well worth a look at if you can source a copy.

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### **Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says**

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Holy #StealthReads, Batman! It's been a while since I sneaked a book past GR's radar, but I've been so tired lately that I've mostly been napping on public transport instead of reading on it. I *finally* finished my most recent purse book, and that book was THE DEVIL ON HORSEBACK by Victoria Holt (because you know that with a title like *that*, I couldn't help but buy it).

Victoria Holt is one of those authors I keep coming back to again and again, even though I have a love-hate relationship with her books. When she's on her game, she is *on her game*; but she also churns out a fair number of misses. For me, THE DEVIL ON HORSEBACK was one of her misses.

Unlike most of her Gothic romances, which are set in Victorian England, THE DEVIL ON HORSEBACK is set in Georgian England with the French Revolution looming close-by.

The heroine, Minella, is the daughter of a school teacher who has lofty aspirations for her daughter. These aspirations come to a bitter end with her untimely death - especially when the nobleman who was angling after Minella is corralled back into his family's clutches, basically leaving her alone and penniless. Minella has a friend named Margot who is the daughter of a *Comte*, and she ends up pregnant (out of wedlock). Her

angry father sends the two of them away (blackmailing Minella into going by saying that the scandal would threaten her school) until Margot gives birth.

Minella continues to live with Margot and her father, much to the perplexity of their rich friends. She starts hearing whispers that make her uneasy - whispers whose truths are confirmed when the *Comte* asks her to be his mistress! She is attracted to him despite herself, traitorous body, etc. etc., but cannot give in to such wicked urges because propriety! So she tells him no, because he is married and she is not that kind of woman, etc. etc. How convenient then that the *Comte*'s wife dies shortly thereafter, overdosing on her own medicine! How coincidental! Surely the two are not related, right? RIGHT?

*Meanwhile*, the French Revolution is happening and stones are thrown at glass houses and people are being attacked and executed. It's really more of a backdrop thing than an actual addition to the setting until the very end, and only when it directly impacts one of the two main characters. This plot twist fails to capture the horror of the French Revolution, however, and is resolved bloodlessly and quickly.

I am disappointed by this book. My friend Naksed said that this book reminded her of a watered down DEMON LOVER, and even though I did not like DEMON LOVER, I think that is true. The plot and the writing were so much better in DEMON LOVER, and if it weren't for how spineless the heroine was and how unrealistic her reactions were to the brutish hero's actions, I would have given it a *much* higher rating. The wicked *Comte* had a few good lines:

*"When we transgress," he went on, "we must pay for our sins. This is the payment I ask." He took my face in his hands and kissed me on the lips - not once but many times* (22)

And,

*"I assure you I am the tireless hunter. I never give up until I have my prey"* (157)

But mostly, he just came across as a creepy older dude who was obsessed with the best friend of his daughter, at the expense of his still-very-much-alive-until-one-point wife. I spent most of this novel feeling very bored, and that is a very terrible way to feel while reading a book.

1.5 to 2 stars

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### **Elizabeth Coults says**

I found this story so interesting. Not because of the characters, although I did like them, but because it was set in Paris during the French revolution. The entire story I was on tenterhooks, waiting for the axe to fall. You can always trust Victoria Holt to be historically accurate, and she certainly didn't disappoint with this story.

As I also mentioned, the characters in this story were really likeable and believable. My main criticism with some of Holt's love interests is that they are just so damn annoying - arrogant, violent, brutal - far too extreme. So, when the heroine falls in love with them and marries them I get really angry and want to throw the book across the room (I'm thinking 'The Secret Woman' here, where the heroine marries her rapist because she can't help but love him, that's just too sick for me to comprehend). In 'The Devil on Horseback' I found her lover, the Compte, to be really endearing. The entire story you see that he definitely has a softer side, he just tries to hide it. He also never tries to make Minella, the heroine, do anything that is against her strong code of honour. He is patient and cares only for her safety.

This story is, in my opinion, one of Victoria Holt's finest and I would highly recommend it.

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### **Regan Walker says**

4 and 1/2 Stars - Proper Englishwoman Resists the love of a Dark French Count in Revolutionary France

Another of Victoria Holt's Gothic romances, this one set in 18th century France during the time leading up to the French Revolution. The hero is a domineering French count and the heroine a very proper English schoolteacher. Their lives become entangled when he pays a trip to England. Neither can deny the growing attraction to each other, despite he is married.

Aristocrat Comte Fontaine Delibes married young at 18 after already siring a bastard son with his mistress. But after giving him a daughter, his wife spurns him and the doctors advise against her having another child. Denied the legitimate son he wanted, the comte sets about having one mistress after the other—until he meets a young Englishwoman, Minella Maddox, "Minelle" who, along with her mother, teaches school on a wealthy estate.

Minelle agrees to travel to France and become companion to the comte's daughter, Margot, when she gets in trouble and has to go away for awhile. During this time, Minelle learns much about the intrigues of the comte's family and the rising discontent of the French populace. Though she knows she should go home to England, she can't bring herself to leave.

If you like Alpha male heroes, misunderstood for most of the book, a brave heroine and an intriguing mystery set in an interesting historical period, then you'll like this one. It's classic Victoria Holt and I recommend it.

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