



## El beso de Judas

*Victoria Holt*

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Con dieciséis años, la vida de Pippa Ewell da un giro inesperado cuando encuentra un recorte de periódico escondido en un baúl con una noticia escalofriante: su hermana Francine, a quien no ve desde hace cinco años, ha sido asesinada. Desde entonces está atormentada por los recuerdos de infancia y todas las experiencias que compartió con Francine: los días de ensueño, el rumor de las suaves olas del Mediterráneo, la muerte de sus padres y el retorno a la mansión de su abuelo en Inglaterra, Greystone Manor, donde todo empezó...

## El beso de Judas Details

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# From Reader Review *El beso de Judas* for online ebook

## Phil Syphe says

“The Judas Kiss” intrigued me from the beginning with its great hook of an opening line:

“I was seventeen years old before I discovered that my sister had been murdered.”

The usual amount of suspense you expect from a Holt novel is in evidence, but while many of her other books have predictable outcomes for certain themes and characters, this one has very few. Pleased to state that I was surprised by some revelations, while other matters that I thought were obvious turned out to be red herrings.

Okay, some things were predictable, but in the most part, the author succeeds in shrouding events in mystery, and surprising the reader – this one, at least – with the way these mysteries are resolved.

The plot is varied and winding, with changes of setting and mood. The main character, Pippa, is determined to prove that her murdered sister was married to an important foreign noble, and that he was not his mistress as all assumed. Pippa also means to discover the couple’s child, which nobody believes to have existed. This drive and determination keeps the story moving forward with no lulls.

The characters are well-developed. Pippa makes a good heroine and I liked her. Also liked her unfortunate sister and their friend Daisy.

Countess Freya was my favourite character. She lives in something of a dream world, which made her endearing and funny.

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## Jana says

There was this beautiful house for hunters in the middle of the wood, which I used to see while driving in the car. My father would tell us stories about when and how it was built and what would hunters do on weekends, and I would daydream in a different way (killing animals was excluded :).

This house was far away from the road, and I’ve never seen it up close but my imagination was wild as a beast. I was around 12, 13 when I read Judas kiss, and I placed the plot around and inside that grand and spectacular hunter mansion.

This was the first gothic romance that I’ve read. And every time now when I think of it I have a strong feeling of nostalgia. There was some kind of brutality and brilliance in it that I loved, and I completely lost myself within the words, but most all, I remember as it was yesterday, how I used to mentally hide myself inside that spectacular forest of Bavaria. This book was so beautifully green.

It sounds odd and a bit koo koo, but I really adored this book.

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## **Dion Ribeiro says**

Mais uma leitura antiga mas que recordo como um bonito romance cheio de mistério!  
Nesta fase da minha vida, lia muito menos do que agora, mas já adorava! :)

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## **Benjamin Stahl says**

I thought this was pretty awful. Two stars instead of one because I'm not so much of an asshole not to acknowledge this book was not written for the likes of me. Serves me right for choosing it.

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## **Misfit says**

*"I was seventeen years old before I discovered that my sister had been murdered.*

Long story short (I hope). Pippa Ewell and her older sister are orphaned and leave their island home to come live with their parsimonious grandfather in England (grandma's pretty cool though). The grandfather wants to marry his nephew and heir to the oldest girl (I think her name was Francine, but the book is at home), but she has other ideas and runs off with a dashing nobleman, who is the heir-apparent of some tiny Bavarian principality or another. The marriage is kept a big secret, as is the child of the marriage (or was there a marriage and a child?).

Oh hell, it's too complicated to explain it all. Events happen in England that leave Pippa at leisure to travel to Bavaria and investigate her sister's death and locate the child that everyone swears never existed. Plus there's the lover she had in England that she thought was a servant of sorts to the royal family that turns out to be the new heir to the old Duke (or whatever he was).

Phew, I yield trying to recap this. It was a lot of fun, and a nice change of setting from most of Holt's books.

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## **Dawn says**

My favorite book read when I was a teenager! Would love to read it again!

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## **Jessica says**

Ok I cannot speak enough looovve for this book! The Judas Kiss was one of my first experiences reading romance as a young person. Victoria Holt has the ability to mix so much love and mystery together that you cannot put the book down and have to sometimes sleep with your bedroom light on!  
The Judas Kiss is to this day truly a favourite of mine!

The book sweeps a tale of a young women Pippa who watches her sister run away with a handsome and wealthy man- she later learns that her sister has been murdered! Pippa desperate for answers travels to her

sisters husbands home in search of her nephew. Love, Lies, Money and Mystery surround this book- GREAT READ PEOPLE!

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### **Regan Walker says**

Death, Love and Mystery in Bavaria!

A wonderful, intriguing Victorian mystery romance that pulls you in. I could not put this one down!

As a young girl, Pippa Ewell lived on an island with her sculptor father and sickly mother and her older and more beautiful sister, Francine, who she loved. When the sisters were still young, their father and mother died and they were sent to London to live with their stern grandfather in the forbidding Greystone Manor.

Their grandfather planned to marry Francine to his heir, a rather dour vicar related to the family. But she rebelled and married a baron from Bavaria in Germany who swept her away from England. Years later, Pippa discovers her sister has been murdered at the same time another mysterious Bavarian, Conrad, shows up and seduces her and asks her to become his mistress. Pippa refuses and he returns to his own country.

Pippa wants to learn the truth of Francine's death and to find out what happened to her young son. When she inherits a small fortune from her grandmother, Pippa travels to Bavaria to discover what happened. As the young countess destined to marry the heir needs an English tutor, Pippa takes the job, hoping to learn more.

The mystery slowly unravels to reveal much and Holt gives the reader some unexpected twists. Even Pippa is shocked when she discovers just who Conrad is.

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### **emere says**

Aunque de verdad esperaba que terminara en un drama de campeonato, la verdad es que me conmovió toda la historia. Aunque algunas cosas no pasaron como yo creí, y mis esperanzas en cuanto a Francine desaparecieron en ciertas formas, también creo que las últimas páginas fueron algo apresuradas: como si tuviera la urgencia por terminar. O tal vez era yo que me estaba bebiendo el libro como felix felicitis por el tipo de final que tuvo, de una u otra forma, me hizo sentir feliz: Fue un libro del que me botaron la costumbre por las novelas de finales trágicos.

Yo tengo dos finales: uno con Ayres being miserable  
Y el final de la autora, con todo saliendo... "así".

No sé. Me encantó, aunque es muy "novela rosa que leería mi abuela"

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### **Anna Karras says**

I love Victoria Holt. Well, actually, I love Jean Plaidy, that's who Victoria Holt really is. She just wrote under the name Victoria Holt, and also under the name Philippa Carr.

And this is the one I've liked the best so far. The heroine's name is actually Philippa (Pippa, for short) and we begin her story on a small island in the Mediterranean somewhere off the coast of Italy. Her father is a sculptor, her mother his muse, and her sister Francine, her best friend. When their mother dies, followed shortly by their father, they return to England to live with their grandparents. Their grandfather rules Greystone Manor with a tyrant's fist, and Pippa and her sister try to please him, but come up short. When Francine falls in love and runs off with a neighbor visiting from the Germanic country Bruenstein, Pippa is left alone with her grandfather's wrath.

Several years later Pippa learns the awful truth - her sister and her husband were murdered in a political plot in Bruenstein, and Pippa travels to the country to find the child she insists exists, though no one believes her. Will she find the truth? Will she find love? Or will she find disaster? *Or all three???*

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## **Melanie says**

Victoria Holt not a new author she has written books for many years and this is the 2nd book I have read that she wrote. I enjoyed this story which begins with Phillipa (Pippa) Ewell finding a newspaper clipping and discovering her sister Francine was murdered. The story returns to the girls childhood and we learn they lived on their parents on an island after his father left his home when he pursued being an artist which was against his father's wishes. The girls parents died close together and since they had no where to go they were returned to their father's home Greystone Manor.[return][return]The grandfather welcomes the girls but has strict requirements for their upbringing as he did their father and his sister. Francine soon learns she is wed her cousin Arthur who is a man of the church and he will also inherit the home. Francine rants to Pippa she will never marry him she will leave first, she does not have long and a family that visits periodically shows up to open their home for a visit the girls decide to investigate the family who is German and they are discovered in the home. The girls are welcomed and invited to the a ball they will be hosting. The sisters begin to scheme on making a dress for Francine and getting her to the ball in secret. The plan works and Francine enjoys herself and meets a wonderful man who she decides to run away with to avoid marrying her cousin.[return][return]Pippa receives a letter from Francine describing her quick marriage at a local church, and another letter detailing the birth of her son. Since her sister abandoned her duties at Greystone Manor Pippa learns her grandfather plans for her to marry Arthur now. Pippa has learned of her sister's death and decides she must also leave. Pippa is out walking the grounds when she discovers the neighbors will be visiting again soon and she meets Conrad who traveled ahead he sweeps her off her feet and he knows of her sister's murder she tells him of her marriage and child which Conrad explains that she could have never married nor was there a child.[return][return]With everything Pippa has recently discovered she makes plans to leave and discover the truth of what happened to her sister and her child The novel has great suspense and a wonderful story that keep me up reading.

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## **Neja says**

Books written by Victoria Holt are so cheesy, but sometimes that's exactly what you need. I've read a looooot of her books when I was 14/15 years old..that was the last time I've read them. I absolutely loved them at the time. I'm thinking of reading one of her books just for the old times sake! =)

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## **Sharon says**

Classic Victoria Holt, with intrigue, dukes and duchesses, servants and friends all just a little more than meets the eye.

In "The Judas Kiss," Philippa Ewell's older sister Francine is murdered at the Grand Duke's hunting lodge in Bavaria -- along with the Grand Duke. Philippa has letters proving that the two were married and had a child, but other members of the Bavarian royal family say otherwise.

Unexpected circumstances allow Philippa to investigate for herself, and she is drawn into the political intrigue, scheming and mysteries despite herself.

A fun "beach read" novel.

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## **Dianne says**

One of my all-time favorite VH books!

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## **Vannessa Anderson says**

Francine and Pippa are sisters who are thick-as-thieves. They are happy and loved by their parents. When their parents die, they are sent to live with their rich grandfather who rules his house with an iron fist. They find comfort in their wise and kind grandmother.

When Francine turns seventeen, her grandfather tells her that she is to marry her cousin Arthur, a man whom Francine and Pippa despise. Francine marries her lover, Rudolph, and runs away with him to his country where he is next in line to the throne. Francine and Rudolph are murdered and their infant disappears.

Pippa's grandfather informs her that on her seventh birthday, she is to marry cousin Arthur. Pippa objects and the two erupt in argument. That night, Pippa's grandfather dies in a fire and Pippa becomes a suspect. She is exonerated. Her grandmother dies leaving Pippa a large inheritance. She goes in search of her sister's murderer and in search of her nephew. She gets a job as a governess to Freya, whom Rudolph was to marry. Another fire breaks out and Freya dies. Pippa is jailed.

The Judas Kiss is a good read.

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