



Velvet Song:

Jude Deveraux

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They were both outcasts by a harsh decree -- and on the brink of a shared destiny of passion!

With her father murdered, her home burned, lovely Alyx Blackelt fled to the woods -- and sanctuary in the camp of Raine Montgomery, a nobleman outlawed by the king's edict. There she hid her beauty in the guise of a boy, and her sorrow in her work as Montgomery's squire.

But how long could such loveliness as hers be hidden? How long could such a gallant man's desires be blind? And how soon -- even as a blood feud raged between the Montgomerys and the Chatworths, as angry swords clattered in the name of family honor -- one woman's love would make all the difference...one woman's love would inflame a hero's passion, touch a king's pity, and raise a song of praise in every English heart.

Velvet Song: Details

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joy in wonderland says

currently-reading comment:

am bored... first i thought the book is quite entertaining... fast faced (coz i just read "almost heaven" by judith mcnaught) so something refreshing to have this fast faced set up, but then i got... *whatthe*--- the two just fell in love!? did i miss a page? huh? really... i find all the set-up shallow (sigh) am not used to saying this stuff, coz me myself cant even write a book so who am i!? however i find it really disappointing, like am stuck here have to endure and finish it... (sigh) i know, i know, i may be not biased... by judging it without even finishing it--- so yeah, i wouldnt talk much--- maybe along the road i'll be able to enjoy and appreciate it like how "almost heaven" was... i thought am not gonna make it, but yeah i did, somehow enjoy the epilogue, very touche when the hero said "almost heaven" hahaha :P

read

okay, i didnt like it.

TANYA says

This is my least favorite in the Velvet series. I didn't care for Raine, he was too much of a "hard-head". In one scene Raine spansks Alyx for disobeying him and then she follows him to their tent to make sweet-sweet love?!?! What. The. Deuce?!?! No!! Just no!!

Hanife says

Another awesome book is finished ! :D I love this book but not quite alike second book in the series :D And can't wait to read fifth ;) If you have passion for Alpha Male characters and good story :D you should read this series :)

Kristine says

I liked this book however was getting a little fed up at Reigns code of honor attitude. I liked that the h was not the standard body type but beautiful still. I LOVED how all the characters came together here. It's like a continued story from the last so you are weaned off each of the past characters.

Tasha says

So I am being nice w/my stars. I should only go with 2 3/4 but it's Deveraux and I couldn't bring myself to do it. I just really wasn't feeling this book. I liked Raine before I read this book. He was a wonderful brother-in-law to Judith in her other book. In this book he was an ill tempered jerk and I didn't get him at all. Then the

whole singing thing and to have such a voice for the kind to beg you to come as his audience. Maybe that was the way of it then but it seemed really unlikely and kind of desperate to me. I really enjoyed the other books in the series though.

Donna says

Alyx Blackelt is not having an easy time. She had always been told her musical gifts were a blessing from God. She is off composing when the local nobleman sees her alone in an orchard and tries to rape her. She manages to get away but in revenge the nobleman breaks into her house, kills her father, burns the house to cover his crime, and then has her proscribed as a witch. The priest puts Alyx in male clothing and sends her off into the woods to a camp of freemen ruled by Raine Montgomery, a nobleman that King Henry VII listed as a traitor after Raine took the king's army to save his sister who was being held hostage. Raine hires Alyx as his squire. Since Alyx has a dim opinion of all noblemen after her experience and since Raine is fairly autocratic, they have a rocky relationship.

Although a someone typical historical romance, I really liked the book. It has strong characters and a good plot.

C Joy says

Perhaps it's not that bad to have read this after Velvet Angel because there were a lot of overlapping events. Raine and Miles's story were happening simultaneously that I didn't mind not knowing what it's all about.

The beginning was slow and I had to force myself to read it and finish it but I just wasn't in the mood so I read a contemporary story, then I just set my mind to it and I couldn't stop reading when Alyx first stepped into Raine's camp dressed as a boy. There were a lot of recurring characters, Joceline and Blanche are with the outlaws, we remember them from "The Velvet Promise", and Joss is likeable as ever, and Blance is a classic semi-villain.

It was difficult for Alyx to adapt the life of Raine's squire and though she whined a lot at first, she learned to deal with it. I could just imagine the hardships because she has a petite physique and I always wondered how they'll get to the part of making love. I thought Raine was imagining someone else in the height of his fever but there was a little lucidity there so I wasn't that convinced.

Again, Jude Deveraux's hero and heroine argued constantly here, and the only time they don't is in between the sheets. I didn't like it that much that the author stretched the opposites attract formula, it's annoying sometimes because one is always unreasonable. I understand Alyx's side in whatever she did, and I also saw the point in Raine's feeling betrayed but with a little compromise and a think-before-you-act attitude, they wouldn't have suffered like that.

So that's 3.5 stars for this.

♥Katie says

After reading Stephen's story in Highland Velvet(my favorite in this series), I think I set my expectations too

high. Of the Montgomery brothers, after Stephen, Raine is my favorite. I loved him in Velvet Promise... he was so honorable and protective of Judith. I really like his character, but something about him was lost in this book. He kept taking pride and honor way too seriously in his treatment of Alyx.

Also, the whole love story between Raine and Alyx seemed rushed. The book could have been longer with more development between the hero and heroine. I did not believe in their desire for each other or really get to feel any sort of commitment in seeing them work things out. I did not feel any kind of connection to Alyx; she actually annoyed me quite a bit. She was too focused on hating all noblemen and thought people should automatically like her because of her musical gift.

I did enjoy seeing Gavin, Judith, Joan and Stephen make appearances. It was like welcoming back old friends and I found I enjoyed scenes with them more so.

I just didn't like how Raine and Alyx seemed to go back and forth, loving and then storming off into the forest. He didn't even see his daughter for a whole year! That just didn't seem like the Raine from the previous books.

I still enjoyed the book, but it would not be one I would reread. But it was needed to continue the series.

KatieV says

The story moved along and it was great to see characters from the other novels. As far as the saga goes, this is a must read. However, so far, this is my least favorite of the series in a romantic sense. I was disappointed about that, since I really liked Raine in the first two novels and was looking forward to his story.

I'm not a fan of the plain Jane heroine. And I'm not sure if that's even an accurate label here, but Deveraux seemed constantly confused with how to describe Alyx. You get the sense at times that she is very pretty, just not curvaceous. That's fine, some men are into the small, petite type. There are different kinds of beauty and not all men want the exact same thing. Why not make Raine one of those men? I wanted him to see Alyx as the most beautiful woman in the world, but he even tells his brother he's had "prettier women". He finds her attractive, sure, and she seems to be considered "cute" by people in general. That's fine as far as other people go. But, I'm shallow. I admit it. In fantasy romance land, I want the H to find the h to be the most beautiful woman in the world, regardless of what anyone else thinks. Instead, I think he still holds Judith on that pedestal.

Anyway, there was far too much 'you hurt my pride, I hate you' going on with Raine. Back and forth and back and forth. It got old after the zillionth time. And Alyx needed to chill out. She was always yelling at Raine and supposedly incapable of understanding male pride and learning to deal with him in a subtler way. This was explained by her being of a different class. I call BS. I'd imagine that most all men of all classes were very sensitive about having their masculinity insulted/questioned. This was a time when might made right and men ruled the world. Being a 'man' was everything. Yet, she didn't get it AT ALL. Her head couldn't have been *that* far up her ass with her music. I suppose I just didn't like her. I realize she changed and became more aware of the world around her over the course of the book and was a decent person, still I never really grew to like her. I didn't hate her, she just left me indifferent. I never understood why Raine fell for her.

Luvmyfamily says

The only thing I didn't like was the background story. Mile's story was practically announced. I'm afraid there won't be much surprise in this next book. Raine really shouldn't have kept ignoring her but that seems to be the trend with these stories.

Wendy Keel says

Still a great read after all these years. Had me laughing, sighing and at times crying. If you love historical romances I suggest you start with book 1, and yes it will probably make you mad but still it's a great read as well. Then read the whole series and end with VELVET ANGEL. This is book 3 so keep in mind it is part of a series and they do need to be read in order. The characters are great, the plot is wonderful, the writing awesome and the overall appeal of the story outstanding. LOVED it!

KatLynne says

a re-read and still love this one.

Melissa says

Forgot how much I hated this character. In the other books in the series, he's the character you like. In the book that focuses on him though, he's horrible. To abandon his wife and child is unacceptable.

Pam says

If you love a story in which the heroine pretends to be a boy then you should read this. Highly recommended.

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

2 stars!

Nothing infuriates me more when the author destroys my favorite character in a book, much less in a series. Champion of the underdog, Raine Montgomery is the main reason why I love the Velvet saga – his sense of honor and his unwavering loyalty and love for his family is what makes him my favorite Montgomery brother. With this book, however, Jude Deveraux has obliterated Raine's character and I'm not sure I'll be able to recover.

As we know from book 2, Raine has been banished by the king after using his men to settle a family feud. He's been living in the forest for the past few months, waiting for a chance to petition the King. Meanwhile, the heroine and beloved singer Alyx is on the run after her local lord kills her father. Disguising herself as a boy, she flees into the same forest Raine inhabits and becomes his serving boy.

For the most part, I really liked the premise of the story – it's very different from the first two books, and I was interested to see how the author would develop a relationship between the two main characters. While I enjoyed most of their relationship development in the beginning, I got weary reading how judgmental Alyx was or how stubborn Raine got. Miscommunication caused the couple to separate for almost the entire second half of the book, thus I didn't really buy into the romance nor was I convinced of their love for each other. The thing that really angered me the most was how the author took Raine's most admirable qualities – honor and pride – and used it as his excuses for shunning Alyx and everything she did for him.

Just like the first two books, book 3's ending was also disappointing – the author delivers a rushed conclusion to Raine and Alyx's story and that also cheapened the romance. I give low ratings out of anger or frustration but very rarely out of sadness. For this book, however, it greatly saddened me to give 2 stars to my favorite Montgomery brother's book. I will always feel like the author didn't do Raine justice.

Thanks Camaro for re-reading with me! Onto the last one!
