



Curse of the Kings

Victoria Holt

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For centuries the tombs of the Pharaohs were haunted by a deadly curse. And when two eminent archaeologists have died mysteriously, Judith Osmond was certain that it was the curse at work. Then, overnight, her life changed.

There was an unexpected inheritance. Then Tybalt, a young archaeologist and the man she adored, asked her to marry him. But Tybalt planned a honeymoon amid the tombs of the Pharaohs, and suddenly it looked as if the curse of the kings had come to haunt Judith . . .

Curse of the Kings Details

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Author : Victoria Holt

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From Reader Review Curse of the Kings for online ebook

Susan says

I like Victoria Holt books. I agree with an earlier reviewer that this is not her best book. This was the first novel of her's that I read and so it holds a special place in my heart. I enjoy her style of writing because I feel like I am reading something written in the 1870's instead of the 1970's.

Cheryl Landmark says

Victoria Holt has always been one of my favourite gothic writers. I started reading her many years ago, and I still enjoy delving into one of her books every now and then.

This one, although it started off a little slow in the action department, was no exception. The first part spent a fair amount of time introducing the characters, showing how their childhood and interactions with each other helped mold them into the adults they became. And, then, the mystery, suspense and intrigue common to these types of novels made the second part of the book more exciting and fast-paced.

Judith was an unusual woman for the times in which she grew up--feisty, unconventional, impulsive, domineering, exuberant. She wanted nothing to do with the genteel, feminine pursuits that were expected of women in that age. Her passion and obsession was with the male-dominated profession of archeology, and she set out to learn as much as she could about it. I admired her strong loyalty and love toward Tybalt, but sometimes she let her over-active imagination run away with her. Tybalt himself seemed a little too aloof and cool at times and totally obsessed with the dig his father had been involved with, but, to be fair to him, he did warn Judith that such might be the case.

I really enjoy reading novels that deal with mythology and history and Egyptian culture is particularly fascinating, as is archeology itself. Ms. Holt's descriptions of the beautiful but sometimes harsh land of the pharaohs were very interesting and intriguing.

All in all, perhaps not Ms. Holt's best offering (her *The Shivering Sands* still remains my favourite), but still an enjoyable read for me.

Wanda says

***2017 Summer Lovin' Reading List ***

I really enjoyed Victoria Holt's books when I was in my teens. Re-reading them as a mature adult has been a bit disappointing. Having always had a bit of thing for Ancient Egypt, I recall being enchanted by *The Curse of the Kings*. Unfortunately, having just recently read *The Lord of the Far Island*, I can now see far too clearly how formulaic Holt's romances were.

The main character is an orphan, she gets her education as a fortunate extra with the children of the gentry, she's beautiful & spirited, and she gets miraculously saved from a desperate life as a lady's companion by

snagging the man intended for the well-born gal. Still, there is a slightly older, beautiful woman who seems like she might be competition for the husband's interest and there are mysterious goings-on.

I think my main beef with this book is Judith's education. The reader is told repeatedly how she has read ever so many books on archaeology and Ancient Egypt, and yet there is her new husband explaining tomb paintings to her, pointing out Anubis and Amun, as if she has never seen a book before and she acting like it's all brand new!

And I had never realized before how undemonstrative Tybalt is! I associate the name Tybalt with fiery passion, so it seems strange to have this cold man share the name.

Perhaps I should have let sleeping dogs lie, but I have another of Holt's books out of the public library, which I will likely read.

Julz says

[childhoods, marriage, then serious doubt about marriage wondering if spouse w

Ciscananda says

[saber si Tybalt y Tabitha estaban o no engañando a Judith (hide spoiler)]

Lighthearted says

Despite her unknown parentage, Judith Osmond has a lovely childhood. The local pastor and his sisters have provided a loving home for her at the rectory. She has attended lessons with the local squire's daughter and nephew. That same squire, Sir Ralph, is quite pleased with her when she chances upon a Roman artifact; having a strong interest in archaeology himself, he finds her passion for archaeology worthy of indulging.

Years later, on an expedition in Egypt financed by Sir Ralph, his neighbor and close friend Sir Edward dies unexpectedly and without apparent cause. As Sir Edward was a healthy man, rumors quickly spread of a curse. Judith dismisses the rumors . . . at first.

Set sometime before the discovery of King Tut's tomb, Curse of the Kings is a predictable but enjoyable gothic. Judith is annoying but still likable. This is actually a re-read for me; Victoria Holt was one of my favorite authors in high school and I decided it was time to revisit some of those titles.

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! =)

Dawn says

A good while away a chilly Saturday book. The prolific Ms. Holt tends to be a reliable and engrossing author. Her G-rated gothic romances work for me!

Mariana says

Me decepcionó mucho.

Como lectora mi valoración suele sustentarse en los personajes, si éstos me agradan al libro le daré mínimo 3 estrellas. En el caso de esta novela, desde el comienzo no me simpatizó la protagonista, quien es también la voz narradora, porque tenía una personalidad que pretendía ser fuerte, pero que para mí era infantil. Lo que menos me gustó fue la obsesión que tenía con Tybalt, si jamás lo conoció en verdad hasta después de casarse, y sólo habla de su faceta de arqueólogo.

Otro punto negativo fueron los primeros 5 capítulos, ya que eran los más largos del libro y en donde sucedían pocas cosas de interés. Se explaya en sus vivencias de niña y se aleja mucho del tema arqueológico, del que sólo menciona que le apasiona y toma una clase particular gracias a un vecino rico. La segunda mitad es algo más entretenida, porque describe el ambiente de Egipto, parte de las costumbres, los lugares (como el zoco y el palacio del Pashá), y la excavación tiene más relación. Además en esta segunda mitad se va desarrollando una trama misteriosa, y la protagonista se vuelve paranoica y suspicaz. Para mí, esto último fue un cambio positivo en el personaje, aunque se arruina con el final.

Mojca says

A wonderfully suspenseful and thrilling read tinted with the mystique, legends, and a possible curse of ancient Egypt.

Certainly a must-read for all VH fans.

Emily Crow says

Actual rating 2.5 stars

Holt's novels are kind of hit or miss for me, and this wasn't one of her better ones. Plucky heroine marries an

emotionally distant archaeologist and heads off for a dig in Egypt despite rumors of a Pharaoh's curse. Holt's writing is as good as ever, but the book took forever to get off the ground (they don't arrive in Egypt until halfway through, and the heroine's backstory isn't that interesting) and fizzled out with a rushed, predictable ending. I also did not like the hero and the author's attempt at OW drama; with a "cursed" archaeological dig in the story, that should have provided plenty of tension on its own.

Felmar Roel says

Set in Egypt... Delightful pharaohnic gothic romance...

Liana says

This book was overly long, but the last 50 pages made up for all filler nonsense. ...Ok, maybe 'nonsense' isn't the word, but dang this book was long for such a simple tag line. Lol. Most of it was getting to know the characters and understanding their backstories... which was fine and all, but I would have preferred if the 'mystery' had dropped hints sooner.

Still, this book was an amazing read! The last few chapters had me on the edge of my seat. It's just the length that prevents me from giving it a perfect 5.

Hafiza says

Annoying heroine stood in the way of my enjoying this book.
Also Tybalt was a cold fish.

Esther says

It was kind of boring at some parts, but it was still good.
