



The Spring of the Tiger

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When Sarah Ashington's actress mother dies after a devastating scandal, Sarah is left at her long-lost father's rambling, ancestral estate to face the disturbing questions of her own past. Then her father's death draws her to his Ceylon plantation -- and into the shadows of a legend from which there may be no return . . .

The Spring of the Tiger Details

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Author : Victoria Holt

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From Reader Review The Spring of the Tiger for online ebook

Melanie says

The Ashington Pearls... Perfect beyond prince, for generations they have been the heritage of the Ashington family brides. When Sarah goes to Ceylon to claim her plantation inheritance, she cannot avoid hearing about the legends surrounding the pearls - legends of tragedy and death. And when she wears them, the stories come to life.

A series of strange and terrifying events make her mistrust even those closest to her; Clinton, her handsome but remote husband; Clytie, her lovely half-sister; Celia, her oldest friend. Someone is threatening her sanity, even her life...

This books is amazing!! There are no inconsistencies. I was caught up at the very beginning. Unfortunately, those that like an instant action book, they will be disappointed. Victoria Holt writes her novels a little more descriptive. She writes a background story.

The only thing that I did not like is that it took her longer than usual to explain the back. Either someone messed up or something. The last 1/4 of the book was the back cover description(seen above). They should have had a little bit of the beginning, and the middle in there. I like to look at the back and determine things from it, things underlying. Well, it was frustrating because I could not really apply the back page to the book until the end. Not very well done on the editors part if you ask me.

It is also in my belief that the title of the novel should be somehow included in the actual back cover, that way it makes it more interesting, even if the exact words aren't in it. This was held out and was a disappointment to me.

Misfit says

Wow. When VH is off, she's really off. This book should have had everything I want to see in a Holt novel. Exotic setting, check. An ancient (and valuable beyond price) pearl & emerald necklace that legend says is cursed - check.

So what went wrong? The first 50% of the book was nothing but set-up for that happens after our heroine's mother and father die and she's married off to the gent who owns the adjacent plantation in Ceylon. Instead of beginning at the heroine's marriage and moving to Ceylon and then covering the back history in bits and dribbles, the reader gets 200+ pages of my mother was a famous actress who scandalized the country by having an affair with a married politician and was banished from proper society. Died mysteriously when mother and daughter are taken in by first husband's family. On and on and on and on and on.

You would think things get interesting once the action does move to Ceylon, and it does pick up, but not enough to fill the 250 or so pages of the second half of the novel. On and on and on with the heroine getting gaslighted by the mysterious baddie. Oh, and the husband is the jerk type that will definitely trigger the PC minded set, but he's not bad enough (and it's all behind closed doors anyway) to entertain the non-PC bodice ripper minded set.

Give it a miss.

Laura says

A book with plenty of adventure elements, gothic romance, seduction, revenge, poison, suspense and murder. What else? A quite enjoyable reading for a free afternoon.

Jan says

Picked up this book, and started to read, and realized I had read it years before. As I love Victoria Holt books, and could not remember all of it, worth a 2nd read.

Victorian England and Ceylon. Young actress marries and goes to Ceylon, she misses London, flees with child and returns to the stage. She has an affair with a married member of Parliament and becomes a Scarlett lady. Career ended, she and her daughter move in with the actresses husbands sisters in a Manor House. She has not seen her husband in many years. A Governess with secrets of her own is hired to finish Sarah's education, after her prior tutor, has moved to India.

Actress dies, daughter Sarah receives her father at the Grange, he brings his neighbour from Ceylon who woos her and marries her fast. Father dies, Sarah inherits the tea plantation and moves to Ceylon. However, there are secrets everywhere. Murder is a foot. Who did it, and why is Sarah constantly in danger?

Enjoyable read.

Cathleen says

My first Victoria Holt! I really enjoyed it! It kept me on my toes wondering what was next! I think a few parts were too long and drawn out. The first half was so different than the second. I kind of felt like I read two separate novels. But the ending pulled it all together.

Sarah Mac says

3.5, actually. I rounded down for two very specific reasons: (1) the pacing of the first couple chapters was a bit slow; (2) love interest Clinton was a douche & I wanted to punch him every time he opened his mouth. But don't let that stop you from reading. :P Plot-wise, this is a highly layered story; everything builds on everything else, & nothing is overlooked so far as fitting into the entire picture. It starts somewhat oddly & finishes with an equally unorthodox twist, so far as genre tropes are concerned -- but speaking as someone who reads a crapload of gothic romances, that isn't a bad thing.

The first half of *Spring of the Tiger* focuses on namesake heroine Sarah's teenage years with her actress mother Irene Ashington, who abandoned Sarah's father when she fled his Ceylon (Sri Lanka) plantation. Despite their unconventional household, Mother & daughter live a comfortable life thanks to Irene's upper-

crust lover. His money management allows them to keep two servants & an afternoon tutor for Sarah (the sweetly named Toby, who also plays an important role in Sarah's adult life). But when Irene's lover is revealed in the papers, their relationship becomes scandal & he commits suicide. The suddenly destitute mother & daughter are forced to move in with a pair of haughty Ashington aunts.

Neither of the aunts are fond of Irene, & consider it an unpleasant family duty to look after their brother's wayward wife-in-name. But they're glad to welcome Sarah...namely because she has the potential to bear children who will continue a family tradition: the Ashington Pearls. Gothic legend surrounds the Pearls -- supposedly a gift from some Ceylon prince, the necklace will bring bad luck if it leaves Ashington possession. Both sisters are inordinately concerned with keeping the tradition; they shed no tears when Irene withers away from sheer depressive emoz, but are thrilled when Sarah's father comes to collect her. Traveling with him is mystery man Clinton Shaw, who owns the neighboring plantation back on Ceylon....and so begins the second half of the novel.

Clinton is a classic Alpha Asshole. For those of you who've read *The Demon Lover*, he's of that same mold -- not quite so bad-in-a-good-way, but a definite nod to jackass ripper heroes. He manipulates Sarah into marrying him, then makes no secret of the fact that he's out to join the two plantations & turn over heaps of money, including the Ashington Pearls. Furthermore, he keeps a mistress & has no qualms against flaunting her to flame Sarah's pride into the copious (though veiled) scenes of violent sex that they both enjoy. Sarah knows her attraction to Clinton is unhealthy & they'll never have a calm, supportive marriage...but she's got bigger problems than Hate!Sex with an asshole husband. Someone within their Ceylon sphere -- including Sarah's long lost half-sister -- is trying to drive our heroine insane, if not kill her outright. What's the big deal with the Pearls' dark history? What really happened to Irene? And who can Sarah trust, if not Clinton?

Oh, the suspense. ;)

VH is one of those authors that usually I hang onto even when a particular book isn't my favorite. Though I didn't like this one as well as *The India Fan* or *The Demon Lover*, it was a fun read & I enjoyed it -- the ending was especially good, both gothic-wise & romantically, & made the book worth finishing despite a slow start.

Hannah says

One of my fave Victoria Holt's, and a great reminder of my youthful reading pleasures!

TSotT has a fantastic twist not often seen in this genre, and raises the bar a notch over some of Holt's similar offerings.

Good fluff weekend reading!

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! =)

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

I read this book years ago and don't remember a whole lot about it, but I do remember having a hard time believing that a book with such a lovely cover could be so mediocre. Heroine spends most of the book married to a cad who regularly cheats on her with his mistress, but they still have lots of Hate!sex <----- behind closed doors, because Victoria Holt. In 1979. Not my kinda romance. The pearls part of the plot was an interesting twist, but otherwise it's a pretty standard who-is-trying-to-kill-our-heroine? plot.

Pamela says

When I started this book I thought it dragged in the beginning. Now, having finished it, all the pacing makes sense.

Ariel McCollums says

This novel had a slightly different recipe that I've come to expect from a Holt novel. While most (if not all) of Holt's male leads have some level of caddish/villainous behavior to them but it's only a ruse. Not this time. Clinton comes into Sarah Ashington's life just as everything in her world starts coming apart. First, Sarah loses her mother, following that her estranged father finally makes himself known to her, only to also die of a lung disease. Clinton, who was great friends with Sarah's father, convinces her to marry him by a mixture of dominance and seduction. Certainly a different pace than Holt's normal novel style, but also enjoyable in that I wasn't sure what to think of Sarah's new husband. Because the Holt novels are usually a mystery as well, I wasn't sure who the culprit was until the end and that was an interesting twist (and another twist, and another twist...)

AgentScully says

I read this back in the 80's in my teen Victoria Holt phase. Unfortunately it's not one of her best. I was too new to her then to realize that when the heroine marries before page 50, hubby has the average life expectancy of a fruit fly.

So who's your hero? I did not like hubby #1, he veered too much from alpha man to bastard. And he never seemed to really love the heroine, just lust after her. Which makes his final selfless act all the more unbelievable. I did not like hubby #2 either. Mind you, I didn't dislike him. He was just too beta and bland for my taste.

So I couldn't get excited about the "romance(s)" in this one. There was no big, compelling mystery to enthrall me either. The writing was good quality as always from VH, and the scenery was nice. But overall it's a dud.

Danielle says

I think this is my most favorite book of all times. The male character has this totally bad side to him in order to get the girl he wants. But in the end I swear everyone will fall in love with him. It is a must read!!!!

Veronica says

First ever Victoria Holt book I've read! I enjoyed it so much. Stumbled across it at a junk shop as well as another one of her's, "The Curse of the Kings", which I am now beginning to read. I'm such a sucker for these gothic romances. Still mourning for my beloved Clinton Shaw! I know, I know, I'm supposed to despise him right?!? Maybe I should be concerned about the fact that I find his character so charming... Can't wait to hunt for as many more Victoria Holt novels as I can find! RIP

Kshydog says

The cover of the book I read led me to think this was a romance book. It was but so much more about friendships, relationships, and suspense during last quarter of book.
