



Velvet Is the Night

Elizabeth Thornton

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To save her family from the guillotine, proud Claire Deveraux would do anything - even strike a devil's bargain with the ruthless new commissioner, Phillip Dehet. Though an innocent, the breathtaking beauty has no illusions about what she has just promised...to surrender herself, body and soul, and become sensual prisoner to Duhet's every whim of pleasure.

Velvet Is the Night Details

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Author : Elizabeth Thornton

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From Reader Review Velvet Is the Night for online ebook

Marianne says

Interesting story. Learned more about the French Revolution.

Frances says

Why am I surprised that a book that starts with a rape scene is a one?

Anneliese Bennion says

As always, Elizabeth Thornton has written a delightful book. I've read the other ones in the series. I think I read them out of order, but that really didn't matter. I was a little frustrated at the amount of miscommunication between the main characters though. Although, what great story doesn't have miscommunication. All in all it had some really low moments and some really great ones. It's not my favorite in the series, but it was a lot of fun anyway.

Su says

I started to read this one and on page 25 I remembered that I had read it already years before. It is about a man impersonating his cruel half brother who is one of the prominent men in France during French revolution.
Very good plot flow. Well planned and executed writing.

Tina says

SPOILERS-

May not appeal to readers who are rabidly against rapes in bodice ripper romance.

This book also has a hero who sleeps with another woman (once) in his attempt to forget the heroine. I couldn't decide, if it was "cheating", since in his mind, their relationship was over for good. The scene wasn't overly offensive as it is hard for him to get aroused and you're aware that he is still very much in love with the heroine. He was clearly not making love to the woman in his bed, but to the heroine. Ultimately, although I absolutely hate scenes like this in a romance novel with a passion, I thought this scene more moving and heartbreakingly than disgusting.

What I found most appealing about this book was the groveling! Oh man, she really does put him through

the wringer that lasted a good couple of weeks. You can clearly see that he's going through a lot of torment and suffering. If you like romance novels with a besotted/devoted hero, who is a psycho jealous freak - yum, and if you like your romance novel's HEA extended, then you will like this book.

Fre06 Begum says

Great read!

Regan Walker says

Set in France in 1794, during the French Revolution, this is the story of beautiful Claire Devereaux, the bastard child of a prominent American who fell in love with her mother on a trip to France, though he already had a wife and children. Raised by her uncle Claire loves his family as her own. When they are threatened with the guillotine, she agrees to a bargain with the diabolical new commissioner in Rouen, Phillippe Dehet, the protégé of Robespierre: she will become Phillippe's mistress in exchange for her family's safe transport out of France.

Unbeknownst to innocent Claire, Phillippe has a look-alike half brother, Adam Dillon, who though raised in France, is now an American patriot and the most sought after bachelor in New York. Adam is sent to France by none other than Claire's real father to engage in a daring escapade to take the place of Phillippe and provide the nobles fleeing France a path to safety. Claire's natural father tells Adam to do all he can to protect his daughter, Claire Devereaux, if he finds her.

When he arrives in Rouen where Phillippe has been appointed commissioner, Adam finds Claire waiting in his bedroom, but under an assumed last name. He has no idea the young woman whose beauty he cannot resist is the woman he was asked to protect.

This is a great story. Thornton has done much research to provide us with a vivid picture of what was going on in France at the time, including the fear that had spread throughout the population. And this is a wonderful romance surrounded by deception, treachery and misunderstanding that keep Adam and Claire apart. Fast-paced and full of action, it kept me reading late into the night. I recommend it!

This is a part of the Devereux Family trilogy but can be read as a stand alone:

TENDER THE STORM
VELVET IS THE NIGHT
CHERISHED SEPTEMBER

Katharina says

Nearly a year later I still think about this book from time to time- Thornton created a truly unforgettable couple and despite the flaws I happily put this book on my all-time-favs shelf.

5 stars it is :)

Uff- I just finished the book some minutes ago and oh my good there were so many emotions- so.much.pain., so.much.drama.! I have to write a review to get this out of my head and move on... Right, so there are a lot of aspects that I really liked about this book and some things that I didn't; I am not entirely sure about the 4* stars but if the story did one thing it truly captured me and I was unable to stop thinking about the characters and their fate when I wasn't reading. Lately I have been reading regency romances nearly exclusively and was growing so very tired of reading the same trope over and over again, finally having a different time setting and location was so refreshing, I also enjoyed the length of the story and that it didn't stop as the first problem was being resolved. Set during the time of the French Revolution, this book is about the love story of Adam and Claire and we follow them along on their lengthy journey to their HEA; at the beginning I found it a bit difficult to get into the story- this book is a bodice ripper which means the start of the love story is not without trouble; while I have my problems with that and some aspects of Adams personality (the author kept him thinking stuff like "i am such a good guy, I could have forced myself on her but I didn't" in more than one occasion and I struggled with that and found myself disliking the hero at times) but in the end it strikes me as so much more realistic for the time setting than these super feminist heroes and heroines authors create nowadays. I grew a bit tired with all the POVs and secondary characters that were introduced- it's nice to get a detailed glimpse into this made up world but honestly it was a bit much. Sometimes the setting was described in a lot of detail and sometimes so much felt missing, I struggled with that. There were so many misunderstandings and turns and they often were resolved rather quickly- like instead of there being one or two big things in the novel that the protagonists had to work on there were many little obstacles. On one hand I liked that because it gets annoying when one big misunderstanding makes a whole novel but it sometimes felt like the characters got off a bit to easily. Despite this, the bodice ripper aspects and the many side stories I truly enjoyed this story and it managed to capture me and I would definitely recommend it. I am surprised by that- like it almost feels that I shouldn't have enjoyed it as much as I did- there were many reasons not to but I really did!! But beware, this is not a fluffy read, there is a lot of pain and suffering that the characters, especially Claire have to go through.

Jynt says

The writing style was too detached for me and there was too much telling rather than showing. Even the emotions of the characters were hard to grasp. I did feel sorry for Claire eventually but Adam was a frustrating character to get behind.

Anna says

I can't fault the basic execution of this story, but partway through, I almost quit reading it. After the high-stakes premise of the first third, Thornton seemed to find a lot of too-convenient resolutions to the major problems created for the characters.

Maybe some of this stemmed from a structural problem -- while at first, both protagonists' choices drive a lot of the action, it mostly seems like luck that resolves a lot of the initial issues. That didn't convince me. Worse yet, the epilogue tied all ends up so neatly, it could have been a Hallmark story.

I do give Thornton credit for having Adam reckon with the question of selflessness after an adulthood full of

selfishness, but she ultimately leaves it largely undeveloped. Never before have I seen a character in a book like this confront that question. I would have liked to see a far more thoroughgoing treatment of the challenge to love selflessly. Had Thornton done so, the book could have become a far stronger, more interesting exploration of romantic love.

She also delves a bit more deeply into the challenges a long-term marriage can face, nicely drawing out some tensions in a secondary relationship. Here, too, though, Thornton sets up significant stakes, but almost lost her nerve a bit in the resolution, which tied things up a bit too neatly for my taste. Show forgiveness, yes, but I would have liked to see more balance in how both characters had to change to resolve things.

Agnes says

This follow-up to *Tender the Storm* got me hooked from page one with the glimpse into the Adam's and Philippe's childhood and the genesis of their rivalry. As the story begins with the meeting of Claire and Philippe, and takes the reader through the switching of identities and budding love between Claire and Adam, I became absorbed by the angst and trust issues the protagonists had to deal with, all while trying to survive in Revolutionary France.

The heartaches, betrayals, big-Misunderstanding, and eventual reunion and capitulation of hearts took me on an emotional journey, that while every bit as melodramatic as the first novel, captured my imagination with its diverse setting -- France then America -- and its engaging main characters. Definitely another keeper from Ms Thornton, and one that bears another read. I've no qualms in rating this a 5-star read.

Being Human says

One of the best books I've read so far!! It has a great beginning, a great middle part and a great ending. With great leads. Simply loved Adam and Claire!! This writer is amazing!!
