



## Ride a Pale Horse

*Helen MacInnes*

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## **Ride a Pale Horse** Helen MacInnes

When Karen Cornell, a beautiful journalist on assignment in Czechoslovakia, agrees to help a would-be defector by carrying top-secret documents to Washington, she is pulled into an astonishing web of terrorism, political assassination, blackmail, espionage, and treason in the highest levels of both superpowers. One false move could cost Karen her life -- and throw the world into violent war.

## **Ride a Pale Horse Details**

Date : Published August 12th 1985 by Fawcett (first published 1984)

ISBN : 9780449207260

Author : Helen MacInnes

Format : Paperback 369 pages

Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Thriller, Suspense, Spy Thriller, Espionage, Mystery Thriller

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## From Reader Review Ride a Pale Horse for online ebook

### Eleanor Jethro says

This is the first Helen MacInnes' book that I have read - Really enjoyed it - couldn't put it down. Intrigue, romance, a little bit of everything. Who would think that a journalist on the job would get involved with a defector and put her life in jeopardy. A must read. Will look for more of Helen MacInnes' books in the future

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### Peggy says

Helen MacInnes is one of my "guilty pleasure" authors such as Nora Roberts. This is the 1st time I have read one of her books since the 70's. I always enjoy her books but her characters don't seem like "real" people. But then again I know nothing about espionage and she was evidently married to a man who worked in that field.

I found this book at a library sale so I only paid \$1 but doubt if I'd read it again, so I'll donate it back to the library so they can re-sell it :)

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### Gerald Kinro says

The author's final work, the only one with a heroine, happens to be my favorite. A respected journalist is invited to a Soviet propaganda conference. Not her cup of tea, but she learns that she may have access to a very special interview. However, she, instead, is approached by a high-level KGB officer, who wants her help in defecting to the US. She is then plunged into the world of espionage and danger. Things snowball into another dangerous assignment, a possible attempt on her life. Is it the Russians trying to stop her from helping the defector? Or is something else going on? Enter Peter Briscoe of the CIA who is charged with finding the mole within his organization and with protecting the reporter with whom he falls in love with.

As in other works by McInnes, there are twists and turns in the story. It is fast-paced with suspense. The heroine fits McInnes. Too bad she had only one book of the sort.

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### BoekenTrol says

The Stichting Overal in Nijmegen cleared out some shelves. I received part of the books from hema-verf in a book box in Castricum. Thanks!

Probably outdated, but... may still be an interesting read. Espionage, East and West have had my special attention ever since I can remember, so this one will stay here for a while.

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### Andrea says

Ride A Pale Horse was MacInnes's last novel. Here, another journalist plays the main role, but this time the journalist is a smart, capable, experienced, and beautiful woman named Karen Cornell. As in The Venetian Affair, the journalist gets enlisted to assist in Cold War spy battles without meaning to. I liked Karen's ambition in this book, and the sense of her being competent and measured in her approach.

This book continues to have as one of its themes the idea of "disinformation" that MacInnes had already started to explore in The Venetian Affair, but here it's much more overt. It's the idea of propaganda being planted and then subversively spread until lies become accepted as fact. In MacInnes's books, this is mostly done through print media, but it's interesting to think of it in today's world of Twitter and Facebook and Instagram.

Again, there is a romance here, amidst the narrow escapes and subtle meetings where information (not disinformation!) is exchanged when someone drops a glove, or spills their cup of coffee.

While it's clear that MacInnes's books are a bit formulaic, the formula's good so it doesn't bother me (I find this the same with Phyllis A. Whitney books).

I have read a bit about MacInnes's life – she was married to Gilbert Highet, an academic who was also an MI6 agent. Sounds fascinating – it doesn't look like there is a biography of MacInnes, but I would love to read one.

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### **Nancy says**

I have never read MacInnes before but she is quite prolific with the spy books. "Highly literate suspense novels" is how her books are described. This one was written in 1984 and so in some ways it is very dated - no cell phones, using her typewriter, going to pay phones, etc. And yet the story is eerily not. Terrorists, espionage, bombings, all too current scary events. The story definitely kept my attention and held it while I was reading the book.

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### **Melanie Jackson says**

Favorite Helen MacInnes (well, okay tied with The Salzburg Connection). This is another author whose books are not yet available in e-format. Hope they come over soon. My paperbacks are getting tattered.

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### **janis louthis says**

#### **Wonderful read.**

Wonderful read. She builds slowly, but then there's no stopping her. Perfect balance. I'm not usually a fan of spy novels but she hooked me. I'll read more of her books.

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### **Ginger Weirich says**

Just finished "Ride a Pale Horse" by Helen MacInnes. This book is of the suspense/spy type and kept me on the edge of my seat throughout. Written very skillfully, Ms. MacInnes kept the characters crisp and the action heart-stopping with just enough "lull" to allow you to catch your breath every once in a while. It

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ended well with enough left up in the air for you to come to your own conclusions. Helen MacInnes is a new author for me, but judging from the list of her books in the front, she has been at it for a while. I will be adding her books to my must-read list.

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### **Judio says**

I'd read this sometime in 1992 or so. When I registered it on Goodreads, I couldn't remember the story but knew I'd liked it. I rated it a 3. I'm making it a 4. This is a brilliant story from MacInnes. I've read a few of her books and each one has been gripping, fast-paced and thoroughly enjoyable.

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### **Jodi says**

I just finished her first book, so it was funny that the only book available at the library was the last she had written. Oh, her first was so much better! This one was so silly and a little dull. The heroine was a vapid Barbie and sat around waiting for her big strong man to make all the decisions. And the plot was boring and didn't make much sense. Ah well, I'll try some others of her's and see if they are any better.

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### **Marina McCulloch says**

I can't remember what convoluted way I found this title on Goodreads, but I'm so glad I did.

I haven't read a spy novel in ages and ages, and who did them better than the 1980's??

Other reviewers thought this book was outdated. Maybe it's because of the current times, or maybe I just didn't notice, but I didn't get distracted by the 80's references at all. Really, there were very few of them. The KGB and the Soviet Union, of course. No mention of any handheld technology, obviously, so that probably made it easier too.

I enjoyed the main characters immensely. I wish Karen had a larger role in the second half though. She's sharp, intuitive and no weakling. Peter, well. \*fans self\* I enjoyed Peter very much.

A fun spy read, and I'll look into her other, older works.

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### **Allison says**

I just read this book again recently. My Mom introduced me to this author when I was a teenager and every once in awhile I love to revisit her books. Ride a Pale Horse is one of my favorites and unfortunately, the author's last novel before she died. She writes espionage thrillers, mostly WW2 settings but a few of her books are placed during the Cold War. Her husband was an actual MI6 British intelligence agent so she definitely has some solid experience and knowledge that she includes in her writing. I found it interesting that one of her books was actually considered REQUIRED reading by agents that were being sent to work

with the French Resistance against the Nazi's. She is such a wonderful author and definitely worth checking out if you like that type of genre.

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### **Mike Harper says**

This tale of spies and counterspies in the late Cold War era is well plotted and fast paced. Unlike many of its genre, it is almost believable: there's none of the James Bond flamboyance about the good guys, and the bad guys are fallible humans, not monsters. Of course, it's dated, dealing with things as they were in the heyday of the Soviet Union. But I enjoyed it for what it is: a page-turner that maintains the reader's interest to the last page.

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### **Irene says**

I picked up this spy novel from 30 years ago because I am struggling with a bit of insomnia and needed something to help me get to sleep. It was exactly what I needed. The plot was predictable, the characters thin, the reading level primary. It had so little suspense that there was no danger that I would read late into the night. When I did fall asleep while reading, I did not have to worry about finding my place the next day because I could open on any page and figure out what was happening. This is James Bond written for a Hardy Boys audience. The extremely good looking, smart, strong CIA agent foils the bad Russians that no one else can catch, survives all the bombs and gun fire that kills lesser agents and gets the beautiful and independent reporter who melts into a helpless, housekeeper after looking into his eyes and kissing his lips. I found myself comparing this book to my childhood fascination with Nancy Drew mysteries. There is more suspense, sophisticated dialogue and credible characters on the title page of any Nancy Drew story than in this entire book.

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