



# Deliver Us from Evil

*Tom Holland*

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## **Deliver Us from Evil** Tom Holland

Wiltshire, during the dying days of Oliver Cromwell's Republic. Robert Vaughn is the son of a Parliamentary officer, investigating a series of grisly murders which suggest a link with Satanic rituals. Led along a dark path to vampirism and beyond, he attempts to fight an evil killer.

## **Deliver Us from Evil Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2000 by Little Brown and Company (first published 1997)

ISBN : 9780751518610

Author : Tom Holland

Format : Paperback 592 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Paranormal, Vampires, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review Deliver Us from Evil for online ebook

### Mick says

Not a bad read, easy to put down tho still a page turner. Very different take on the usual vampire novels. His non-fiction books are the best I have ever read. Keep em comin mate!

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### Julia Phillips says

One of my favourite books. The main character's development is chillingly charted from child to adult in a beautifully woven plot. I have re-read this book many times and will no doubt do so again.

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### Tim Pendry says

Tom Holland is a master of literate historical horror and it is disappointing to see that GoodReads does not seem to include his 1996 book 'Supping With Panthers' which is a wonderful romp through the dark side of late nineteenth century Imperial India.

The five stars are as much for this book as for 'Deliver Us From Evil' which is set in the seventeenth century world of European witchcraft and black magic. He tells a great story and his corpus is a continuing riff on the tropes of Gothic fiction and the horror tradition.

Highly recommended if you like solid story-telling and don't mind a bit of occasional visceral unpleasantness.

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### Simon Mcleish says

Originally published on my blog here in April 2003.

Deliver Us From Evil, a historical horror novel, starts at the end of the Cromwellian Commonwealth in England, just before the restoration of the monarchy and the reign of Charles II. Captain Foxe, an officer in the militia based at Salisbury, begins an investigation into a series of ritual murders at ancient monuments (the cathedral and Stonehenge are the best known), and becomes convinced that they are connected to strange events in his home village of Woodton. There, the manor house has been abandoned, as many are, by exiled supporters of the king; but in Woodton the gentry were rumoured to have been involved in black magic.

When Captain Foxe and his wife are killed by the evil he has been seeking out, his teenage son Robert begins a quest to gain revenge, to be able to face and destroy the evil power which has taken over the manor and possessed the villagers of Woodton. To this end, he spends the remainder of the book travelling through a Europe beginning to recover from the Thirty Years' War and to the American colonies, and spends much of his time in the company of 'blooddrinkers' (vampires).

Though Deliver Us From Evil could never be described as a conventional historical novel, it quite naturally

needs to excel in many of the same ways that a member of that genre does - notably in terms of its background. It must feel accurate once the horror elements are removed (and it is helpful if even the supernatural side respects seventeenth century ideas on the subject). Deliver Us From Evil succeeds admirably in this respect, particularly in the way it uses well known people of the time (the Earl of Rochester and John Aubrey are particularly prominent).

As a horror novel, it lies squarely within the traditions of the vampire story, particular debts being owed to Bram Stoker and Anne Rice. Holland rings enough changes to make Deliver Us From Evil original within the tradition, and he is also occasionally much nastier than either Stoker or Rice (for example in the description of the anal rape of Robert Foxe by a demon which ends part one). If you can cope with the nastiness, Deliver Us From Evil is a fascinating novel, well worth reading.

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### **Ian Macfarlane says**

#### **A good read**

a mix of history and fantasy, easy to read, moves at a pace. rider haggard  
In Style ,a victorian adventure.

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### **bkwurm says**

Interesting romp through history with a different explanation for some well known events. My only grouse is that the ending felt somewhat contrived, which to be fair, is a problem with many stories where the antagonist has been setup to be a nearly all powerful menace is that the means by which the defeat of that antagonist is encompassed frequently feels poorly done as was the case here.

But other than that, the story was compelling and the characters were well drawn. The twist to one major character was very unexpected.

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### **Shawn Lazaros says**

Appearing to be a Prequel to his "Lord of the Dead" (Also called "The Vampyre"), this work furthers the realm Holland constructed with the pseudo fictional account of Byron's life. Those who have read The vampyre may remember the enigmatic, yet evilly romantic Lovelace from Byron's travel to Turkey soon after his transformation, who is the main character of this work. Holland churns out more pseudo-fictional storytelling, such as the Lord Rochester's attempt to kidnap Lady Elizabeth (I think that was her name...My copy has changed hands recently) as well as reaching back to cultural legends such as the tale of Rabbi Loew and the Golem, as well as incorporating mystery such as the usage of the elusively un-translatable Voynich Manuscript. constructed as a fusion of literary fantasy from the works contemporary to the period of setting and its authors (John Milton becomes the teacher of a young Lovelace early on in the book, and one of the major villains is the Marloweian Faustus) making for an interesting blend of Restoration-era England pseudo-history. Furthermore, fans of the Vampyre will also meet other familiar faces such as the Vakhel Pasha in a cameo role as a sort of advisor to Lovelace.

Without spoiling too much, deliver us from Evil is an edge of the seat thriller, but beware, for the last few chapters of the work seem like Holland is holding onto a tedious thread, trying to jam as many author references and plot twists as he can, changing a fantastic read into fragments of an M. Night Shyamalan script. As long as you keep that in mind, the context does sort itself out.

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### **Catherine Siemann says**

The third in Holland's vampire series is the most ambitious, and I'd say the best written, of the lot, although because it's set earlier than the others (in this case, the English Civil War and the Restoration) there is a sad lack of Lord Byron in it. The Earl of Rochester essentially substitutes, and there's backstory on a key character from the first novel, not to mention a broad cross-section of luminaries like John Milton, John Aubrey, John Dee (lots of Johns) and Rabbi Judah Loew. I don't think this one was ever published in the US; it's worth hunting up.

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### **Dark-Draco says**

It's been so long since I've journeyed into the world of horror, that I devoured this book like some blood starved demon!!

Actually, to be fair, this starts off pretty slow. The first section, as the main characters are introduced and the murders begin to happen, was a bit of a tedious read and I found myself wondering whether this was the book I remembered reading years ago. But once Robert's family has been killed and he falls in with Lightborn and Milady, the action really starts up.

The story itself is not hugely original - a misguided 'priest' attempts to gain power by sacrificing humans at key sites along a ley line, on days of the year considered most powerful. But the demon that he conjures up turns on him and creates a world of darkness and death. Young Robert Foxe, whose father attempts to stop the murders, is caught up in it all and the consequences of being trapped by the demon at the moment of its birth, haunt him for years to come. Seeking vengeance and a change to destroy it, he travels to Prague, Holland and finally the Americas, before he has to face it once more within the rings of Stonehenge.

But what is original is the way the author has woven in key figures from history - Jonathan Dee, John Milton, Marlowe and the Earl of Rochester, to name a few. Some are vampires, some just caught up in events, but strangely enough their 'history' here seems plausible! The author also provides a reason for the plague and the Fire of London, explains away the Jewish legend of the Golem and mixes in some Native American law. LOVE IT!

Yes, it is gory and disgusting, disturbingly erotic at times and probably not the sort of reading you want to do if you have a sensitive stomach or a sensitive soul. But as I have neither, I couldn't put it down. Highly recommended.

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### **Marc says**

A truly abysmal reading experience. Putting the aside the hackneyed and derivative plot for a moment, the actual writing (and editing, should there have been some, which frankly I doubt) resulted in prose that reads

like the worst cheap porn writing ever. I don't mean erotic - I mean clumsy sentences, dreadful grammar, feeble attempts at description. I had to research the author, just to reassure myself that his work hadn't been written in another language and translated by a poorly-featured computer programme. Just wretched.

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### **Laura says**

I FINISHED IT! I FINISHED IT! YOU DID NOT DEFEAT ME, BOOK OF MAGIC SEX CHANGE  
BABY-EATING VAMPIRES! *I WON!*

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### **William says**

Vamps, ghouls, demons, golems, the English Civil War and Lord Byron... all mixed together in a literate yet scary swashbuckling romp.... has to be read to be believed.... over the top most of the way through, but tremendous fun

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### **Mia says**

ghoulish,bloody, a little chilling...not bad!

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