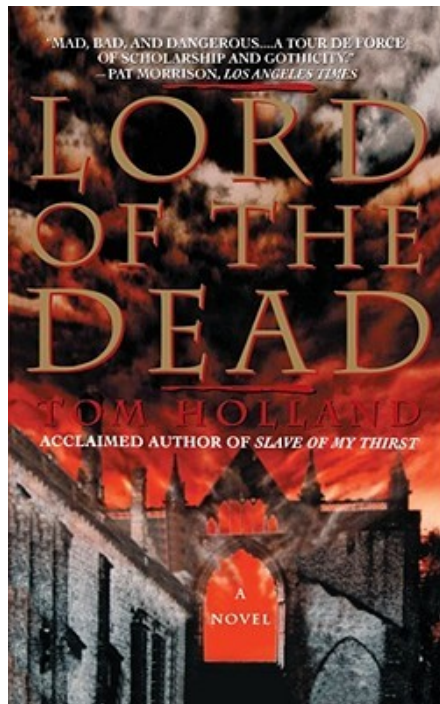




Lord of the Dead

Tom Holland

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Famed nineteenth-century poet and rake Lord Byron travels to Greece and becomes the world's most formidable vampire—entering a dark, intoxicating world of ancient arts and scorching excesses of evil—in this offbeat book by the author of *Slave of My Thirst*.

Traveling in the mountains of Greece, Byron falls under the spell of a mysterious fugitive slave, whose pale, slim body arouses his lust. Utterly entranced, his fate is sealed. The supreme sensualist embarks on a life of adventure—that of the world's most formidable vampire.

Chosen to enjoy powers beyond those any vampire has ever known, Byron enters a dark, intoxicating world of long-lost secrets, ancient arts, and scorching excesses of evil. He drinks deeply of terror and sex. But his diversions, delicious and cruel, are also his torment: an all-consuming thirst damning all those he loves...

Lord of the Dead Details

Date : Published July 1st 1998 by Gallery Books (first published 1995)

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Author : Tom Holland

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

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From Reader Review Lord of the Dead for online ebook

Cheryl says

Action scenes with alot of boring scenes in between (in my opinion). It's very similar to the format of Interview With the Vampire, and brings nothing really new to the genre. I wasn't interested in the main character (Byron), so I really didn't care what happened to him. Maybe it picks up in the second half, but I'm not sticking around to find out. This just wasn't for me.

Michelle says

One of two very cleverly done vampire books. Two of my favorites actually. He manages to combine some notable people and fictional characters in history in a totally believable way and also creates more of a place for John Polidori than he usually manages to have. It was well done, richly textured and I might have to read one again today now that I am talking about it.

:)

Eric says

Rarely, if ever, have I given up on a book with fewer than 100 pages to go. I did that with this novel.

Yeah, it's yet another Interview with a Vampire knockoff, with a tormented vampire telling his tale to a willing audience. That's okay, because the vampire is Lord Byron so it's just different enough.

I even liked the first part, in which he becomes a vampire. I was engaged. It was interesting. I was digging the book.

Then he becomes a vampire and it falls apart, for 2 reasons.

1. Stupid vampire powers. It's never fully explained, but he somehow can teleport out of his body and travel somewhere else, yet still be in a solid form to drain victims. Didn't like it. He can also change his gender. Really didn't like that.
2. Sex with his sister. Sorry, I can't get into incest, and it's never clear why a vampire would want to have sex with his sister. And even more, why she's want to have sex with him. Stupid.

I actually kinda liked the twist on vampire immortality (they'll age until they drain a relative, with a child having the most allure and potency), but a vampire is a dead corpse, right? So his little sperms should also be dead, right? Which should make it hard (haha) for a dead sperm to fertilize an egg. Right?

After that, I couldn't take it anymore.

Amellie says

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karen says

i cant help it, i love byron. i have about 30 books here that fictionalize his life and work and discourtesies. and most of them look like cheap romance novels, but i can't help it; i love the clubfooted bastard. even when they are bad. and this one is bad. byron as a vampire?? how could this story go off the tracks, you wonder?? well, it does. pretty spectacularly. and i own the sequel too, and i will read it because i cannot resist! i'm just glad i can read pretty quickly, so i am able to indulge myself these little distractions from good taste and sensible reading. someday soon i will embark upon my byronathon and read all these old mass markets with their blue-tinted pages and see if any of them deserve to be back in print, or if it was meant to protect us all...

Siobhan says

The thing is, this novel is ridiculous. It is a more concisely-written Interview With The Vampire with Lord Byron as the main character and the plot a strangely-paced version of Byron's life. The framing device is basically pointless and the long section in which the protagonist-that-we-all-know-becomes-a-vampire finds out about vampires and is trapped by one is as predictable as in any generic vampire story. It makes some frankly strange choices (giving a notably large amount of narrative justification for Byron's probable affair with his half-sister Augusta, for example) and somehow does a disservice to most of the historical figures it fictionalises (with the exception maybe of Percy Shelley, who is only a slight caricature of himself really).

However, I'm glad it exists. It's only natural that it does, given Byron's connection with the popular image of the vampire (and The Vampyre, the story written by Polidori and given a new meaning in this novel). Also, if it didn't, there wouldn't be a moment in fiction in which Byron tries to convince Shelley to become a

vampire too by using the argument 'think of all the liberty we could fight for', presumably the main way to convince Percy Shelley anything is a good idea.

Clodia Metelli says

The figure of the brooding, Byronic hero and that of the vampire found their places in English literature at around the same time, both as part of the Romantic movement of the late 18th-early 19th centuries. One of the first vampire stories written in English was in fact composed by Dr. Polidori, the physician of Lord Byron himself.

In this novel, the two figures are blended, as Lord Byron, poet, lover, scandal-driven exile and freedom fighter is further cursed with an immortality, stained with vampiric thirst.

The novel is suffused with the dark, rich elements of the gothic literature of the period - brooding castles, tormented, driven hero, exotic travel, tragic heroines, twisted lusts and, of course, lots of gore.

A particularly piquant cruelty is lent to Byron's situation in that he is not only the sensitive, anguished type of vampire of more recent decades, there is also that in his nature harking back to the more brutish, deadly revenant of folklore.

An entertaining, intelligent take on both the vampire and the Byron mythos.

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

What a bizarre book! I had it marked as horror while on my tbr shelf. After reading it, I unclicked the horror box and selected gothic. It's truly a gothic story, very similar I'm sure to Anne Rice's work. The entire book is a narrative of a past life and history. While this can grow annoying, at least the life led was interesting.

I was bitterly disappointed and aggrieved by something that happened when Byron was made Vampire, but was happy the author resolved this a bit in the end with a surprise visit. I wish it would have worked out the other way though without misunderstanding.

There were a lot of changes to the classic vampire story here but I don't wish to say them as that would spoil the surprise of the story as Byron himself finds out the true horror of being undead.

Byron by himself was an okay sort pre-vamp, but due to his nature and just him in general he's not the greatest type of person. How truly awful it would be to live an existence as they did. Not an amazing piece of literature, but still a good piece of work for someone wanting a different sort of tortured vampire story. When I say tortured I don't mean innocent vampires trying to play nice, they are cruel and matter of fact in this book. The tortured element is just part of the the horrible existence of immortality for this piece.

I'm not familiar with Byron's work and this is the first piece of fiction I've read about the author. Really dug the writer's style and it's clear he has talent with the word.

Katrin says

Was für ein tolles Buch. Endlich mal wieder ein Vampir-Buch der alten Sorte, und nicht dieser Teenager-Kram, der mich ehrlich gesagt auch immer wieder gut unterhält, haha. Es geht um Lord Byron, eine Person, die wirklich gelebt hat. Es werden Zitate von Personen um Byron herum benutzt, außerdem waren Teile der Geschichte sicher historisch richtig belegt. Byron's Andersartigkeit wird hier erklärt, auf fantastische Art und Weise. Er ist ein Vampir. Der größte Teil des Buches ist also seine Lebensgeschichte, welche er Jahre später erzählt. Manches war für mich ein wenig zu viel. Ich will keine Spoiler nennen, ich meine das dunkle Geheimnis, welches mir doch zu absurd erschien. Ansonsten jedoch ein tolles Buch, voller Leben, Liebe, Sex, aber auch Grauen, Horror, Tod.

DAISY DISNEY says

Now this is how Vampire stories should be told!! Dark & gothic!! Truly one of my all time favorite vampire novels now! I really hope there are more books by this author because he is a master at horror writing! WOW!

Vedrana Vidicevic says

Just finished it. It is compared to Interview with a vampire but I have to say that I feel meaningful difference from this book and Interview with vampire. When I read Interview with vampire I had to skip few pages in this case I read every letter and when I had to drop book I was sorry for it. His highest vampire, Velekh Pasha is scarier to me than any other. He walks in daylight and Byron's first meeting with him is done in late noon or so. Something is scary in it. He even smiled at him. I can not get behind that moment. And how lucky was Byron's friend without knowing it that he managed to control himself and never actually attack him and feed on him though he was with him often. There are some mildly erotic moments but they are you know... "panties tingling". Haha. However, there is bit Bram Stoker Dracula in it and bit of Interview with vampire but I enjoyed this one more. Incomparably more, than other two. Ending is so scary that I don't like to remember it. Description of crypt is also scary in its own way. As characters are descending in dark passages you feel as you go there with them. Surprising book from man who made that religious documentary that made so much noise recently. Historian writing good book about vampires. He connected history and fiction. I guess two things he likes.

Sharon says

I have the actual physical copy of this, fantastic read

Emily says

I give this audiobook two stars.

The text itself is dull and lifeless, just like this portrayal of Lord Byron. It's an interesting concept with poor execution.

But! Richard E. Grant's performance is outstanding. Listen to this quick read, if only for that.

Daryl says

Hmm, somewhat mixed feelings about this one. It started great; the opening scene is spooky, mysterious, creepy, frightening. Most of the book, however, is written in a form I generally dislike. Around page 30, Lord Byron starts to tell his story, in dialogue, to another character. This comprises most of the book. Who sits and talks like that? And, who sits and listens to it? Every now and then, there's a short (maybe a paragraph) break to describe Byron and his listener, but mostly it's page after page of Byron telling the story. If you want to use Byron as your narrator, why not simply write the book in first person? It would be easier (I lost track of the number of times, the quotation marks were misused) and read better. Other than that, Byron takes a long time getting to the point of telling his listener (and us, the readers) how he became a vampire. After he's turned, the book also takes a turn for the better. It's gruesome, graphic, and far more interesting than it had been up to that point. A nice twist on the vampire mythos is the specific way that a vampire becomes ageless. I won't spoil it here, but it's morbid and morally challenging. Cool. So I liked the book, but didn't love it. And...can something be done about the blurbs on the backs of books? This one promised me that "the ending is nail-bitingly terrifying" so I was looking forward to that from the beginning. I didn't find the ending particularly terrifying, and due to that blurb, it was a bit disappointing. Maybe I should just quit reading those blurbs. But nah, that's not gonna happen.

Sam says

(4.5)

Tom Holland's well-researched novel on the possibilities of a Byron vampire intrigued my interest from the start. I'm a huge fan of both Byron and vampires, so--well, what could go wrong? Two of my favorite things in one novel...hahahaha....I wasn't at all nervous.

Well, I am sincerely glad I picked up this book. It's the perfect combination of fact and utter fiction to divine such a story that is both captivating and enlightening. It's not perfect, but it never stumbles, never flinches, perhaps only avoids certain aspects which the author may not have wanted to write?

The characterization of Byron in the novel surely is a familiar and interesting one, and I must say as a huge Shelley (Mary and Percy alike) fan, I thoroughly enjoyed the latter's part in the novel, it was easily my favorite part.

The book contains definite similarities both in nature and in style to that of The Vampire Chronicles, but I would definitely say that this is a wholeheartedly positive thing--it stands on its own.
