



Hôtel Transylvania

Chelsea Quinn Yarbro

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The classic tale that introduced the legendary Le Comte de Saint-Germain, first published in 1978 and spawning 14 titles in the Saint-Germain epic, is now available in paperback. A fixture in 1740s Parisian society, Saint-Germain is a perfect gentleman--and a vampire. When the fiery young Madeline falls in love with him, a group of evil sorcerers targets her for their black mass--and only Saint-Germain can save her soul.

Hôtel Transylvania Details

Date : Published 2002 by Warner Books (NY) (first published 1978)

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Author : Chelsea Quinn Yarbro

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From Reader Review Hôtel Transylvania for online ebook

Ceilidh says

We discussed Hotel Transylvania on our podcast Bloodsucking Feminists, your number one stop for all things fangs, feminism and fangirling.

<http://bloodsuckingfeminists.com/epis...>

Stephen Robert Collins says

Forget date stated here this came out in 1980s before True Blood & long before Twilight was the erotic Count this evening that Dracula isn't yet it's blood pressure high a quality Weathering Heights With Gone with the Vampire instead of Wind.

Historical kiss of blood red death .I read number of these books not all many because been unavailable in the UK the early American editions have much better cover with gold embossed covers in paperback. If enjoy horror but don't want a Saw style feast of blood that make you vomit then these are what you love a Romantic Historical erotic Not over the top horror

Julia says

At the beginning I did not like it at all; the writing-skills were indifferent, the story itself was not intriguing nor interesting, the characters were quite vain. The reason why I read a lot of vampire books is that besides being a fascinating myth; I really enjoy reading the different kinds of perspectives on vampire-ism. The book by Yarbro, actually, contains a separate segment at the end of the book about the different aspects of vampire-ism depending on culture and religion, which is exactly what I'm interested in. It came as a surprise that Yarbro put so much effort behind the book; reading it, I was not stunned by any significant part or chapter, that being said: after reading I'm quite impressed. And even though I did not see myself continuing the series (because I didn't like the book that much) I might do it regardless.

Ladiibbug says

Actual Publication Date: 1978

#1 Count St. Germain Historical Vampire series

A truly memorable read from 2000 - one of my favorite books.

Count St. Germain is a very old vampire, a good vampire. Hotel Transylvania was a stunning eye opener for me in terms of how truly & deeply satisfying a detailed historical book can be.

I've read several more since HT (MUST find Path of the Eclipse in my TBR!). CQY is a master at

meticulously detailing the history of the various time periods. In each book, St. Germain travels to a different country and time period.

The fact that St. Germain is a vampire is actually a minor part of these books - the history and adventure is what these books (so far) concentrate on.

CQY opened the doors to non-fiction history for me - many of her books & characters made me curious to read lots of non-fiction through the years.

Jennifer says

I had written down the title of a book, and when I looked it up I discovered it was part of a series. Further research led me to the author's website, where I discovered there are over 20 books in the Saint-Germain series, each taking place in a historical time period or setting that I would enjoy reading. Being the nerd I am, I had to start at the beginning, and Hotel Transylvania is the first book in the series.

This story takes place in the fall of 1743 in Paris, France. All of the characters are of the peerage, therefore social etiquette of the period, dress, manners and activities provide the backdrop for the story. Saint-Germain is a vampire, but the reader only notices this fact when he happens to appear by someone's side out of the blue, or when one remarks on his penetrating gaze. His vampire tendencies seem like odd habits of his character, especially how he doesn't like to eat or drink around others. Since the characters are aristocratic, and they themselves can be odd, no one questions Saint-Germain. The women and most of the men like him for he is very considerate and a wonderful conversationalist. Saint-Germain just happens to harbor a secret.

Our heroine, the lovely Madelaine, is not like most young women of her day. She is well educated, reads books, and speaks her mind quite often, which has proven difficult for her family to find her a husband. Therefore, when she meets Saint-Germain, they find in each other someone who meets their desires. For Saint-Germain it is a beautiful love of his life, who he is drawn to, and for Madelaine, someone who speaks and treats her like an intelligent woman.

As a matter of fact, Saint-Germain's being a vampire is finally stated in the novel within a conversation between he and Madelaine. Saint-Germain says something to effect of, "When you have lived over 500 years like me..." and Madelaine accepts his explanation readily, not with screams, disgust, or shock. This section made me laugh a little, and I had to read it twice to make sure I comprehended everything.

As the relationship between Saint-Germain and Madelaine progresses, the evil or mysterious forces and their activities also comes to light. The book moves rather quickly, and Yarbro explains her parameters for Saint-Germain's vampire side throughout the story, leading one to assume future books are in the works. Saint-Germain is a very likable character and his vampireness (?word?) is a facet of his character, like being jovial or good at fencing.

All in all I enjoyed this book. This book has a little bit of love, with some mystery and suspense thrown in. The main characters are very likable and enjoyable, and I'm interested to learn what happens in the next book. You see, there are some unresolved things at the end of this book, so I need to know how it plays out.

My Rating: 4.25/5

DeAnna Knippling says

I wanted to like this, but no. For a book with a sympathetic vampire, character (which I generally find lame), the idea wasn't bad: a vampire who could use a crucifix against his enemies.

The pacing I found too slow and the characters too similar--everyone melodramatic and vain, in complete denial of the Satanists among them, who themselves were ignorant of vampirism. I had trouble caring about various characters who were too stupid to live, and it seemed as though many elements of the plot were never in question, which drained the suspense.

I've heard that later books in the series are much better. This one wasn't horrible, just not smooth enough to overcome my dislike of the melodrama and pacing, which others may find the cat's pajamas. If you're looking for a supernatural bodice ripper, you definitely could do worse.

Mervi says

The first book in a historical fantasy series about the very old vampire who is currently called the Comte de Saint-Germaine. The first book is set in the year 1745 and in Paris.

Comte de Saint-Germaine is a mysterious man who has recently taken his place among the Parisian nobles. Some think that he's a fraud but others, particularly the women, are charmed. He seems to be interested in them as people, and not just to get (sexual) favors, and he keeps the confidences he's told.

In a sense, those that call him a fraud are correct; he's not a Count. He's a vampire who remembers Ancient Rome because he lived there. He also has a double life in Paris as Prinz Ragocy who employs sorcerers and opposes the Satan worshiping clique of men lead by Saint Sebastien. Saint Sebastien is looking to sacrifice a couple of women in his rituals to Satan in order to get more power to himself. Unfortunately, one of the women is the young and vibrant Madelene de Montalia whom Saint-Germaine has fallen in love with.

The plot is about equal parts about Saint-Germaine fighting the Satan worshipers and romancing Madelaine. Still, the plot moves along quickly. The book has several point-of-view characters. In addition to Saint-Germaine, there's Madelaine, her aunt Claudia, and a few others. The book starts and ends with a letter, and every chapter ends with a letter or a note. The letters are important. In fact, one subplot is resolved in the letters and the structure worked well for me.

Most of the characters are Parisian nobles and their servants and many of the chapters are set in parties or dinners. However, to balance them, there are the sorcerers who work in gloomy cellars.

The cast is pretty large. In addition to the thoughtful Saint-Germaine, there's Madelaine who's intelligent and wants to study. However, she's spent most of her life in a convent, so some things are a shock to her. Her aunt the countess Claudia is trapped in an unhappy marriage; her husband is a drunkard and a gambler, and resents it when Claudia tries to help him. Claudia advises her niece that she can't expect a happy marriage, either. In fact, many of nobles are unhappy. One of the women is married to a gay man and her priest just tells her to pray for children. Saint-Germaine also rescues an injured coach man who becomes loyal to Saint-

Germaine. The group of sorcerers includes a Spanish man who escaped the Inquisition and an Englishman who is the group's leader. They can do actual magic.

Near the start, Madelaine finds out that Saint-Germine is a vampire but she isn't disturbed by it. Instead, she wants him to suck her blood and later she wants to become a vampire so that she'll have a longer life. I found this to be a bit strange, to say the least, especially for a woman raised by nuns. The vampire doesn't have to kill anyone; he seems to need very little blood. Like Dracula, he can walk in daylight but is strongest during the night. He ages very slowly.

There are a lot of historical detail in the book. In fact, I was quickly bored with the clothing descriptions but religious talk about how women have to submit to even abusive husbands but those were a big part of the life of the nobles. However, otherwise I enjoyed the glimpse to a fantastical 1743 France.

There are two Satanistic ritual descriptions in the book and both are cruel. In both cases, a woman is the victim and in the first ritual she's gang raped. The rituals have also homosexual acts. The book doesn't have any non-Satanistic gays which, on the one hand fits the time period but is also a bit disappointing.

Saint-Germaine himself is based on real-life figure who was a mystery to his contemporaries.

All in all, I did enjoy the book and intend to read a few sequels, especially if they don't have any Satan worshipers!

Brandy says

Si no estoy mal informada, este es el primer libro de Chelsea Quinn Yarbro que llega a España. Le ha costado, puesto que está escrito en 1978, aunque tengo que reconocer que el paso del tiempo no le ha afectado. Alucinada me quedé cuando buscando información sobre la novela y sus continuaciones vi que la serie constaba de nada menos que de 23 libros, más otros dedicados a algunos de los personajes que van apareciendo, por ejemplo, Madelaine es protagonista de dos títulos de una serie anexa a la del vampiro protagonista. En siguientes entregas, Saint Germain nos hace ser público de diferentes épocas y acontecimientos históricos: la caída de Nerón, la primera guerra mundial, la reforma italiana... etc.. Así que aparte de novela de terror hay que añadirle la etiqueta de histórica.

Respecto al libro leído, deciros que está separado en tres partes: La primera lleva el título del protagonista: Le comte de Saint Germain, donde escena tras escena iremos conociendo a este singular personaje mientras la trama satánica se va desarrollando poco a poco. La segunda parte, titulada Madelaine Roxanne Bertrande de Montalia, nos acerca más a la historia de amor entre los protagonistas, así como la aceptación de ser el centro de atención de la trama de terror. Y la tercera y última parte está dedicada a Le Baron Clotaire Odon Jules Valince Pieux de Sant Sébastien, donde se erige como el típico malvado en busca del poder supremo y donde se revelan los planes que tiene para la protagonista femenina.

El estilo del libro es divino. La autora maneja el arte de la sutileza con destreza y es un libro con el que he disfrutado una barbaridad. Cada capítulo nos regala como introducción una carta o nota al estilo del Drácula de Stoker o Las amistades peligrosas de Choderlos de Laclos (imprescindibles de la literatura). Y me dejó en el tintero las escenas con el gremio de alquimistas, la cantidad de detalles sobre la figura del vampiro (el no tener reflejo, el no poder cruzar un puente, etc...)

Supongo que después de tanta cháchara os preguntareis el porqué ha obtenido cuatro gatitos y no cinco. Bien, os lo diré. La sutileza constante durante todo el libro, se va de golpe y porrazo en las últimas páginas cuando en una carta al padre de Madelaine, cuentan con pelos y señales lo que le va a ocurrir a su amada hija. Entiendo que la ocasión merece algo escabroso, pero es que me dejó de piedra. Ese detalle unido a las escasas páginas dedicadas a la batalla final donde os puedo asegurar que no me enteré en ningún momento como se las arregló el vampiro para deshacerse de sus enemigos. He leído escenas de lucha que parecían coreografías de Fama o una partida de twister (leeros cualquier libro de Salvatore y su elfo Drizzt) pero lo de esta novela es para alucinar. Sin sacar los colmillos, sin armas ni nada, acaban todos por los suelos o arrinconados. No me pregunteis como..

No me queda mas que recomendar esta novela a todos, sobre todo a los fanaticos de los vampiros ya que es una visión totalmente diferente a la que nos han acostumbrado. Y para todos aquellos que están cansados de tanto vampiro adolescente puede ser un soplo de aire fresco.

Atreveros a descubrir a este misterioso personaje porque no os vais a arrepentir.

Wanda says

Hôtel Transylvania was probably a cutting edge book of its time (the late 1970s), but today it feels a little old fashioned. However, I can certainly see its place in the process of getting to the abundant vampire fiction that we have today.

Bram Stoker's *Dracula* merely hinted at the sexual nature of vampires. The vampire snuck in at night like a clandestine lover and had to get up close and personal to bite his victim. Blood transfer is pretty intimate after all.

A couple of years before *Hôtel Transylvania* was published, Anne Rice's *Interview with the Vampire* appeared and updated the vampire legend for the times. These were vampires who could interact with humans, who could live for many centuries, and who felt strong emotions. The eroticism of the vampire-human interaction became more explicit. This was a way-station along the path that has led us to the completely sexual vampire of current urban fantasy.

Enter Le Comte de Saint-Germain. Although he does drink blood, he also provides pleasurable sexual experiences during the process. There is some hint that he obtains energy from the sex as well as the blood meal. He is apparently over a thousand years old, is able to handle religious symbols such as crucifixes, and can endure sunlight and running water if properly grounded with his home earth in the soles of his boots.

An aspect of this book that marks it as a product of its time—it is set in the France of Louis XV and revolves around a Satanic cult in the French court (supposedly linked with La Voisin, an alleged sorceress in the court of Louis XIV). Published in 1978, *Hôtel Transylvania* appears just before the Satanic cult panics of the 1980s. The physical & sexual abuse ascribed to the bad guys here is very similar to that attributed to the cults of the 1980s. Rather like the Salem witch trials, it turned out that panic-stricken people have very active imaginations.

This was my first time reading the first book in the series—I vaguely remember several volumes in the late 1980s, which I enjoyed more at the time.

Latasha says

well...I had heard about Chelsea Quinn Yarbo for many, many moons. I found this one (and the next) at a used book store and jumped on it. it had been spoken of very highly. sorry everyone, but I'll stick with the beloved Mrs. Rice. St. Germain sure makes a big fuss about his clothes! I know this was published a long time ago and it probably was new then but I felt like I'd read/seen this all before. i'll read the next one then we'll see...

Jamie Collins says

This is the first book about the ancient, noble, lonely vampire Saint-Germain, but I'm glad it wasn't the first one I read because I might not have have continued with the series. It's not terrible, but the two later books I've already read were better than this one.

For one thing, the plot is Saint-Germain vs. Satan worshippers in 18th century France, and I just don't buy the motivation of Satan worshippers. Why would a bunch of French nobleman spend their time horrifically sacrificing virgins? Don't they have parties to go to? Deer to hunt? Boxes at the opera? The sacrificing is nasty stuff, with some scenes of explicit sexual violence. In each book the author has placed her vampire in the midst of great human evil, as if to emphasize his relative "humanity".

Saint-Germain falls in love in this book (he fell in love in the other two books I read, too) but the romance is not very convincing. He's apparently very good in bed despite having non-functional plumbing, and the sex scenes are rather vague and unsatisfying, with a lot of phrases like "wakening her inmost harmony".

The author spends a lot of time describing clothes, particularly Saint-Germain's clothes. I enjoy it, especially in a historical setting, but I know this irritates a lot of people.

And I can't help but wonder about Roger, who his a minor role in this book as Saint-Germain's valet. Saint-Germain saved Roger's life during the reign of Nero and made him immortal (but not exactly a vampire - the details are vague). Roger becomes his grateful servant, and here he is, still a servant seventeen hundred years later, even though Saint-Germain speaks of him as an old friend. Talk about eternal gratitude.

Chris says

This is the first Count book and here, the Count seems happier than in the other novels. While I find this in some ways the weakest of the books, it foreshadows Yarbro's style in the later books. The attention to historical detail is here (love the debate between the alchemists and Satanists), well drawn minor characters abound (Hercule is one of my favorite characters), and good characterization of the leads. There are some drawbacks, the bad guys never seem convincing, for instance. For me, the biggest problem is the heroine, Madeleine, whom I never have really liked. I find her too self-centered at the end of the novel to make her likable. She could have spared a thought for her mother and aunt.

Ryan Patrick says

Bondama says

Out of all the current rage in "vampire" books, This is truly leagues above the crowd. Ms. Yarbro's books are always meticulously researched. The Comte St. Germain WAS an actual historical personage. She takes this person, around whom many, many stories circulated, and turns him into a vampire (albeit an extremely courteous one!)

Her books started out as epistolary novels, but have over time come to evolve into more. The Comte and his faithful ghoul, Roger, travel extensively throughout the world and throughout time. St. Germain is an incredible character, and the whole series is miles above ANYTHING Anne Rice ever wrote. I recommend this book - the entire St. Germain series - without reservation

Rhode says

Although I'm not the audience for this classic book from 1978 (I'm no horror nor suspense lover), and the plot was old fashioned, reminding me of those silly B movies from the 60s and 70s with virgin sacrifices in half-naked satanic rituals; it was so well written, I had to rate it 3 stars.

In many ways it's far more feminist than some historicals of its time and later, because the younger of the heroines genuinely isn't interested in marriage to any of the men at court. And her aunt in her mid-30s is treated as a near-equal heroine with many scenes from her perspective, which is rare in romances today. (I was annoyed at the ageism shown by everyone being so fascinated by the 18 year old vs older women though. Why should the centuries old vampire love the girl instead of her aunt?) Plus there are gay people as a regular occurrence (men only sadly) and the hero is short with small hands.

I also like the structure - It's a combination of epistolary and live action. And lots of historic detail, especially regarding clothing. I don't think I've read so many expert and delicious descriptions of period clothing practically ever. In part this is because as the author's note explains, the hero is based as faithfully as possible on a real person from the 18th century who was known for his wardrobe.

On the other hand, the story is told from too many points of view for me to sink in and really get caught up in one character as I prefer. Plus rape and near rape will never be entertaining for me to read. Lastly, it was annoying that the two main male characters who are battling for most of the book had fairly similar names — Saint-Germaine vs Saint Sebastian — which made skimming as I did a bit more difficult.
