



The Temptress: The Scandalous Life of Alice de Janze and the Mysterious Death of Lord Erroll

By Paul Spicer

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In the spirit of Frances Osborne's The Bolter, this fascinating life of femme fatale and gorgeous Chicago heiress, Alice de Janzé, offers a solution to the decades-old murder of Lord Erroll—the story at the center of James Fox's acclaimed book and movie White Mischief

A glamorous American multi-millionaire, Alice de Janzé scandalized 1920's Paris when she left her aristocratic French husband for an English lover—whom she later tried to kill in a failed murder-suicide in the Gare du Nord. Abandoning Paris for the moneyed British colonial society known as Kenya's Happy Valley, she became the lover of the handsome womanizer, Joss Hay, Lord Erroll. In 1941, Erroll was shot in his car on an isolated road. A cuckolded husband was brought to trial and acquitted, and the crime remained tantalizingly unsolved.

Paul Spicer, whose mother was a confidante of Alice's, used personal letters and his own extensive research to piece together what really happened that fateful evening. He brings to life an era of unimaginable wealth and indulgence, where people changed bed partners as easily as they would order a cocktail, and where jealousy and hidden passions brewed. At the heart of *The Temptress* is Alice, whose seductive charms no man could resist, and whose unfulfilled quest for love ended in her own suicide at age forty-two.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Please note: the ebook edition does not include photos that originally appeared in the printed book.

The 1941 fatal shooting of British earl Joss Erroll in Kenya made headlines worldwide (and was the subject of the book and movie *White Mischief*). A cuckolded husband was acquitted, and now Kenyan-born former oil executive Spicer intriguingly fingers his late mother's friend, Countess Alice de Janzé, Joss's discarded mistress. Alice's complicated and violent love life was possibly attributable to bipolar disorder and to abandonment by her father, a self-made American millionaire, when Alice was 13. Alice married a French count, Frédéric de Janzé, and to escape the stuffy confines of French society, the couple spent much of their time in Kenya. There Alice had two love affairs that, according to Spicer, goaded Alice to violence: she made a botched murder-suicide attempt in 1927 when English aristocrat Raymund de Trafford rejected her, yet they married in 1932 (Alice had already left her husband). Alice had also begun a two-decade-long liaison with Joss. Though Joss had many enemies, Spicer posits that Alice killed Joss, and months later, at age 42, committed suicide, hoping they would be reunited in the afterlife. The author's depiction of the unstable heiress and her milieu of wealthy expatriates cavorting in the Kenyan highlands is engrossing. 8 pages of b&w photos.

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From [Booklist](#)

Kenya's notorious "Happy Valley" set flourished during the twenties and thirties, providing enough scandalous fodder to fuel numerous books and movies. The Kenyan-born Spicer takes a leaf from Frances Osborne's *The Bolter: Idina Sackville—the Woman Who Scandalized 1920s Society and Became White Mischief's Infamous Seductress* (2009) by chronicling the checkered life of Alice de Janzé, another fascinating, if twisted, resident of Happy Valley. Focusing on the unsolved murder of the wickedly handsome Joss Hay, Lord Erroll in 1941, he alleges that Alice, a fading American glamour girl with a penchant for titled aristos, actually shot Erroll in a fit of insanely jealous pique. Basing his theory on the thinnest of evidence—gossip, hearsay, and a letter of confession from Alice that he has never actually seen—he nevertheless paints an intriguing portrait of a thoroughly debauched social circle. Recommend this speculative true-crime scenario to readers prepared to reconcile simultaneous feelings of intrigue and antipathy. --Margaret Flanagan

Review

"Spicer has brought an extraordinary character out of the shadows." —James Fox, author of *White Mischief*

"A true story of glamour, scandal, and murder in colonial Africa." —*The Daily Beast*

"In Paul Spicer the notorious American expatriate and radiant beauty Alice de Janzé has finally met her match." —Michael Holroyd, author of *A Strange Eventful History*

"Fans of Frances Osborne's *The Bolter* will enjoy Paul Spicer's *The Temptress*." —*The Wall Street Journal*

Users Review

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Gilbert Johnson:

The book untitled The Temptress: The Scandalous Life of Alice de Janze and the Mysterious Death of Lord Erroll contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains her idea with easy way. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was authored by famous author. The author will bring you in the new age of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice read.

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