



The Cruel Prince

Holly Black

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

The Cruel Prince

Holly Black

The Cruel Prince Holly Black

Of course I want to be like them. They're beautiful as blades forged in some divine fire. They will live forever.

And Cardan is even more beautiful than the rest. I hate him more than all the others. I hate him so much that sometimes when I look at him, I can hardly breathe.

Jude was seven when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King.

To win a place at the Court, she must defy him—and face the consequences.

As Jude becomes more deeply embroiled in palace intrigues and deceptions, she discovers her own capacity for trickery and bloodshed. But as betrayal threatens to drown the Courts of Faerie in violence, Jude will need to risk her life in a dangerous alliance to save her sisters, and Faerie itself.

The Cruel Prince Details

Date : Published January 2nd 2018 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780316310277

Author : Holly Black

Format : Hardcover 370 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult



[Download The Cruel Prince ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Cruel Prince ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Cruel Prince Holly Black

From Reader Review The Cruel Prince for online ebook

Warda says

So, where to begin.

Hype as we know it, is quite futile. The buzz it ignites is amazing. They create this excitement within you that has your mind wandering to all of the possibilities and direction the book can go in.

Because of the hype, I assumed I would enjoy this book. I'm quite an easy-to-please reader, so usually when a book is hyped up, I tend to enjoy it. Or even if I don't, I will feel indifferent. But this book brought about rage in me; I hated it with every fibre of my being.

You may be thinking that because of the fact I 'succumbed' to the hype, it ruined the experience for me. That was not the case at all. I always go in weary, but with a sense of optimism when it comes to hyped books.

As for the book, well, everything was wrong with it for me. Other than the slight addictive quality it had - which died for me after I passed the halfway point - this book was weak in every sense of the word. From the protagonist, to the characters, the plot and the world building. There was no development or growth that brought those aspects to life, not even the writing.

The storyline started off quite tragic, with Jude's parents being brutally killed off from the bat. From that, I was expecting some kind of revenge story, or emotionally harrowing character development, because to witness that when you're young will take a toll.

But no. That wasn't explored. Our main character goes on to enter some kind of tournament she has no experience in whatsoever. There's nothing ingrained within her to take on this challenge, no power she embodies, intellectually or physically. Even though it took place, the battle was flimsy and didn't feel complete. Just rushed.

Thus this was the narrative the story carried on. Our main character had no proper background that we as readers were exposed to in order for us to connect with, no experience, and neither had she trained to gain any of it throughout the course of the book. Everything was just thrown (characters and world) at the reader, and felt as if we were expected to go with the flow and further clarification was not given or explained. Event after event took place with no sense of proper progression of the overall plot. No aspect to it whatsoever felt substantial or concrete.

I got angrier as I read on and when it got to the last 50 odd pages, I refused to carry on, because I couldn't bring myself to care one bit. It wasn't that it was even mediocre; the whole book felt pointless to me.

INITIAL REACTION REVIEW:

Well, I'm pretty sure my soul just died. No, it is dead.

I haven't hated a book this much since Caraval and I don't tend to hate books that often. I'm indifferent most of the time, and I do enjoy a lot of the ones I read. But this... god. I have no words.

Review to come when I can feel again.

Ugh.

Fables&Wren says

I want to begin with saying that what probably killed this book for me was the hype. I was literally expecting the feels I got when I read A Court of Mist and Fury or Strange the Dreamer. Instead, I would have gotten the feels like when I read A Daughter of Smoke and Bone or Caraval: **It was good, but like it wasn't astonishing or mind-blowing.**

So, story begins with a Fae coming and murdering the parents of a pair of twins and their half-Fae older sister. After witnessing this tragedy, Jude and her twin sister Taryn and her older sister Vivi are forced to live with the Fae-murderer as their father figure in the world of the Faes.

Fast forward ten years, and Jude is well on her way to becoming a warrior. She knows she isn't ever going to become as good as the rest of the fae with their skills in weaponry and their reflexes, but she is trying her best if she is allowed.

But, her classmates and the faes never let her and her twin sister forget that they are mortal. Always playing cruel tricks on them and pushing them around and glamouring them. Jude is done being the butt of the jokes, even though Tayrn just tries to keep her head down.

One of these bullies happens to be a prince. When Jude pushes him too far, she finds herself in the middle of a game of politics that could cause a war between all the Fae Kingdoms.

Doesn't that sound so legit and epic?

The writing was exquisite and I just could feel the world building around me and through me and it was such an amazing experience. The faes in this world have horns or tails or different colored skin like blue or cat eyes or wings. I absolutely love those kind of fae books, which makes me believe I should pick up more of these books.

Then.. there's the reason why the stars are so low: Jude.

Jude was beyond **A N N O Y I N G**. She was aware that she wasn't a fae and she wanted to be one of them or better than them. But she never stopped complaining about being mortal. Ever.

I get it: You hate being human and want to be fae.

I get it: You are mortal and you want to be fae.

I get it: You are weaker than the immortal beings and you want to be like them.

I get it: You are slower than the faes and you want to be one of them.

She never shut up about it to the point that I found myself rolling my eyes. And her character half the time did exactly the opposite of what she said she would be doing. I was just completely over her; but not to the point that I didn't love the book and wouldn't want to continue on with it. I mean, the end was a little more calm for me than I would have liked (I need more war/blood/ twists.. because I obviously need to see a professional about that) but I still enjoyed it well enough.

But I didn't think it needed the hype it got. It's good, but it isn't obsessively dramatically good.

Blog • Bookstagram • Goodreads • Twitter • LinkTree • Club • Club Bookstagram

SoOoOoOo... did I read the same book as everyone else or am I getting punked? RTC.

I'm so excited about this.

Marie Lu says

WHAT IS THIS BEAUTY. Someone please revive me because I am dead from the awesomeness of this book.

If you want to read a masterpiece of character and story, look no further. The Cruel Prince showcases Holly Black at the top of her game: it is exquisitely dark and delightfully wicked, set in an intricate world of highlighted sensation--the taste of faerie fruit, the feel of rich, decaying fabrics, the smells of dangerous old chambers--and populated by a cast of characters that left me dying from feels. I mean, seriously. Jude is a *glorious* lead: a shrewd and determined survivor with exactly the kind of cunning that I love. YES. And then there are her sisters! Cardan! The princes of Faerie! Her complex family! As always, Holly's language is as precise as it is beautiful, and I frequently found myself pausing to reread turns of phrases because each could pack so much into so few words.

AND THAT ENDING. OMFG.

My review is not doing the book justice. Read this immediately. You'll be so grateful that you did.

C.G. Drews says

I CAN'T GET OVER HOW FREAKING BLOODILY FANTASTIC THIS WAS. I WAS GOING TO BE CHILL ABOUT THE WHOLE THING MY LMAO NO. THIS BOOK IS STABBY AND MARVELLOUS AND I WANT 9 MORE.

I'm actually reeling okay?! Holly Black has been a favourite of mine for years and I was craving more murderous dark faerie books. This is not about Tinkerbell. This is about the monsters in the woods and enchantments and torture and massacres and conniving. **This book is, most definitely, about cruel wit.** And I *absolutely love it*. Although honestly I thought it'd actually be a bit darker? But I probably shouldn't mention that because I can literally see you all throwing salt at me and asking if I was a stolen malicious changeling baby which...

...yes? I totally see how that could be.

Anyway, onwards.

+ First off, this is the ultimate Slytherin book.

It's really complex and twisty with the fey royalty plots and the conniving courts and the intriguing and the backstabbing and twisted plotting. Like the fey do REALLY well to get around the "we can't lie" thing. I have taken notes. Because obviously this is the kind of book you learn from.

#NoPleaseDontRunawayFromMeImNiceSometimesImSure **But it's CLEVER and complex** and I crave that in a book and I got so so much of it.

+ And it's fully set IN the fey world.

Usually books about fey are more about the overlap, but this is like 98% set in Faerieland! I'M SO FREAKING HAPPY ABOUT THIS. It's saturated in the rich luscious world. The descriptions were gorgeous and just popped off the page. **And everything was beautiful and pure deadly.** Like hey welcome to my hOME where the fruit will kill you and there are death monsters in the pond and also if you piss off a gentry fey you'll die and also EVERYTHING IS GORGEOUS SO THERE'S THAT! Basically I was so in love with the gorgeous and brutally nasty world.

10/10 chances that if I got lured into faerieland I'd be like Jude and stay too. (I can handle the stabbing, ok? Once I even killed a fly.)

+ There's plenty of blood and stabbing.

Like, mate. We aren't going to muck about. There is MURDER and it's chilling.

+ I really loved Jude, our protagonist!

She's such a complicated person, born fully human and being fostered by, basically, her parent's murderer (also her human mum's ex husband...look the fey world is complicated). She's been raised in a world where the fey will ALWAYS despise her for her mortality. **And the bullying, I think, was done really well and actually quite relatably.** I mean, we're in the fey courts, for goodness sakes, but you have a relatable story line of a girl who is never fitting in or accepted because of who she was born + putting up with the cruelty of the other fey kids in her classes. **And Jude was just NOT going to be run over.** She wasn't overconfident or heartless, but she was badass and terrifying and clever and such a schemer. <3 <3

+ There's a lot of emphasis on family too!

Although I kind of thought Taryn was a flake and Vivi had little to no point to the story but heyyy sisters!! I do love books with SO many interesting women. Plus Oak was an adorable brat. And I loved how morally grey Madoc was. Like the dude was bad but also good?!? But BAD. Nice.

+ I admit I totally feel things about Prince Cardan.

He's so nasty and cruel and makes Jude's life miserable...which is 100% the recipe for me to hate him. I do NOT like the "ooh I like you so I'll be mean to you" story lines **but it wasn't like that!** I loved the twists in their interactions, but this isn't the kind of ship you'd expect. It's not even a ship?!?? Is it?!? I DON'T KNOW. (FYI I guessed what was going on with Locke VERY early.) But Cardan was mean and actually a little tragic underneath and I'm *desperate* to know what happens next.

ajfdsklad I didn't mean to care about this boy ajfkdlas why why

+ I also really took my time reading and it was worth it!

Every page was gorgeous and satisfying and interesting. I can't even with how detailed the world was and how smoothly the plot ran. I LOVED Jude's narration and watching her change from someone struggling not

to be walked over, to someone an acorn and a thumbprint away from manipulating the world. Ugh Jude. I love everything about you.

+ PLUS THE ENDING. HOLY YES.

EVERYTHING ABOUT IT MAKES ME DESPERATE FOR BOOK 2. Is it too early to declare a favourite of the year?! Or favourite of ever??!

BASICALLY: READ THIS.

If you like dark fey stories and books that aren't afraid to get bloody and girls with swords and clever crafty plots -- this one. This. Eat it. Be entranced. It's terrible and beautiful and everything I was hoping for.

Melanie says

“He looks like a faerie lover stepped out of a ballad, the kind where no good comes to the girl who runs away with him.”

If you guys ever want to see what my true heart's desires are on paper, read this book. This book is a piece of heaven that was sent from above, this book is the perfection incarnate, this book is nothing short of magical, this book easily makes my top five books of all-time list, and this book is without a doubt the best book I've read in 2017. I'm not sure how I'm even going to attempt to come up with a review fitting for this masterpiece, but I'm going to try.

If you can only preorder one book for the rest of the year, please pick *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black.

Okay, maybe I should start this review off with a personal story. You know, full disclosure and all that. I was a young girl, at the mall with my mom, and we walked into a Borders Outlet. I've always been a rather ravenous reader, but at that time in my reading life I was reading only crime thrillers. Think things like James Patterson and John Grisham. Well, while I was perusing the new releases on this autumn day back in the 2007, a worker came up to me and started talking to me about her love for books, but more importantly her love for fae books. She was so kind and warm and enthusiastic, I couldn't help but ask her to pick me one of her favorite fae stories. Well, she ended up handing me two, but one of them was *Tithe* by Holly Black, and this godsend Borders Outlet employee completely changed me and my reading life forever.

After that day, and after I inhale read that book, Holly Black became one of my favorite authors and my parents couldn't keep unread fae fantasy books on my shelves. And ten years later, I've never looked back. I've been completely obsessed with fae stories ever since. And if I ever develop magical powers, one of the first thing I'm going to do is track down that Borders Outlet employee and thank her for making me the reader that I am today.

Okay, sappy and heartwarming story aside, this book was honestly perfection in every aspect. You want fae courts? Bloodthirsty fae royals fighting for a crown? Twists after twists and reveals after reveals? Heartwarming scenes followed by heart wrenching scenes? The slowest and most agonizing but also the most romantic and powerful and rewarding hate to love romance in the world? Pick this book up.

“Because you’re like a story that hasn’t happened yet. Because I want to see what you will do. I want to be part of the unfolding of the tale.”

And the writing? I mean, not only is Holly Black the literal queen of all things fae, she is also the queen at stringing together words that make me feel everything in the entire universe. The amount of sticky notes and highlights I have in this book is ridiculous, but Holly Black’s writing is so poignant and lyrical and honestly the most perfect thing my eyes have ever seen. This entire book reads like one giant tragic ballad, yet it is equal parts heartbreak and hope. This book is so haunting, so dark, and so twisted.

“But I will not stand in front of your happiness. I will not even stand in front of misery that you choose for yourself.”

Jude is a very young girl when she witnesses her parents murder. After that terrible night, she and her sisters are whisked away by the murderer to live in Faerie. Now, ten years later, Jude is trying to live among the fae, while constantly being reminded of her mortal human status. Yet, she soon gets wrapped up in a very elaborate game, from many different sides, which will cause a civil war to break out in the Courts of Faerie if the game isn’t played properly.

The High King has ruled for centuries, but people feel like it is finally time for him to step down and give the royal crown to one of his children. In this world, the king chooses his successor; it doesn’t automatically go to the oldest child. And the High King has six children in line waiting for him to make his choice.

Prince Cardan is the youngest son of the High King. He is wicked, and charming, and smart, and maybe even a little cruel. Oh, and he makes Jude’s life a living hell most of the time. He’s also one of the best characters I’ve ever read in my entire life.

And with Cardan, comes his group of friends: Nicasia who likes power, Valerian who likes violence, and Locke who likes dramatics, but they all love tormenting Jude in very different ways.

“That’s what comes of hungering for something; you forget to check if it’s rotten before you gobble it down”

Even though Jude is the only point of view, and is the main protagonist of this amazing story, her two sisters play a huge part of this story, too. Taryn is Jude’s twin, who must watch all the torment that Jude endures, and Vivi is their older sister and one of the best side characters I’ve ever read. She’s unique and defiant and strong and devoted, and her romance with her girlfriend meant everything to me. Also, Vivi is on the page bisexual and that representation meant even more than everything to me.

Oh, and speaking of adorable queer relationships; Ben and Severin, from The Darkest Part of the Forest, make a cameo in this and I was crying the happiest tears! I don’t think I will ever be over THAT whisper, and I’ve just completely accepted that. Be still, my heart.

But Jude is our main character of this story, and you can tell from everything that I’ve written above that she doesn’t have the easiest of lives. See, the fae in this world are very dependent on humans, even though they remind them of their lower status constantly, because the fae women have a very hard and sporadic time

conceiving and bearing children, therefore, they rely on humans reproducing for them. Well, Jude doesn't want that life, she wants to make a name for herself and be one of the greatest knights that the Courts of Faerie have ever seen!

Jude is strong willed and very determined, but she is also one of the most selfless characters I've ever had the pleasure of reading from. She is a very morally grey character, yet she will completely capture your heart. But she's young and learning that love comes in very different forms, and sometimes we are unable to control what we feel.

“I stand in front of my window and imagine myself a fearless knight, imagine myself a witch who hid her heart in her finger and then chopped her finger off.”

One of the most beautiful things about this book is that none of these characters are perfect. Jude, Cardan, all of them do bad things, and none of them are ever excused of their crimes, but they learn to deal with them and the other ramifications that come from their actions. I mean, none of us are perfect people, and we all make bad choices at times. But this book accepts that and reflects that, but also highlights the importance of growing, and becoming a stronger person, and picking what battles you choose to fight. It's a truly beautiful message and I really appreciated having a full cast of nonperfect characters that do nonperfect things.

“But we all want stupid things. That doesn’t mean we should have them.”

Also, this is a spoiler free review, but I just have to yell from the rooftops say that Chapter 26 is the best chapter I've read in all of literature. I will fight anyone that says otherwise. Chapter 26 tortured me, broke up, killed me, rebirthed me, and gave me new life. The end of Chapter 25 through Chapter 26 was the most romantic scene my eyes have ever witnessed. I feel so blessed to have even been able to read those glorious paragraphs. Like, I'm a different person after experiencing Chapter 26. When I'm sad or hurt or angry, I'm going to reread Chapter 26 so I know the true meaning of this life.

“...like taking a dare to run over knives, like an adrenaline strike of lighting, like the moment when you’ve swum too far out in the sea and there is no going back, only cold black water closing over your head.”

Also, fair warning, this book has a cliffhanger ending that puts all other cliffhanger endings to shame. Just typing that sentence gave me full body goosebumps, by the way! Oh, and the title of this book is absolute perfection, as well.

This book has touched me in a way that very few books have in my life. This is the type of book that reminds me why I fell in love with reading in the first place. This is the type of book that makes me believe words have the most powerful healing magic of anything in this world. This is the type of book that completely sets my soul on fire and makes me feel utterly enchanted. I just know that *The Cruel Prince* is a once in a lifetime series, because this first installment was everything I have ever wanted in a book.

Holly Black immerses me, captivates me, and makes me believe in magic. I have no words of gratitude for that, and I'm not sure what the world has done to deserve her stories, but I will forever be grateful. Holly

Black helps me forget all the actual cruel princes in our world today, and their terrible choices that they are making for all of us. And honestly, I'd be super surprised if she isn't an actual fae queen, that just escaped faerie to torture us with real stories that went on while she was ruling.

Again, if you can only preorder one book for the rest of the year, please pick *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black. It's not only my favorite book of the year, it's one of my favorite books of all time. And then read the rest of Holly Black's work, because her books are truly the closest thing to magic and each is a tangible vessel of joy that I have an unconditional amount of love for.

“If I cannot be better than them, I will be so much worse.”

[Blog](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Youtube](#) | [Twitch](#)

Content warnings for bullying, talk of suicide, and abuse.

The quotes above were taken from an ARC and are subject to change upon publication.

(Thank you so much, Diana. You've completely made my entire bookish life! This book means more to me than you'll ever know. I am forever grateful and will always remember and cherish your kind note. Thank you for giving me an ARC of my favorite book! ?)

🦊 Jessi ♥? H. Vojsk says

“Love is a noble cause. How can anything in the service of a noble cause be wrong?”

Story ??????????

One day a stranger knocks at Jude's home and kills her parents only to take her and her sisters to Faerie, a land of magical creatures, where they're treated badly for being human.

The king of the land has many heirs, but only one stands out for Jude. Cardan, who hates her so badly that he makes her life a living hell. Until she fights back.

This book was so freaking addictive. I just couldn't put it down. I was always on edge always thinking the next surprise or betrayal would happen. There were secrets to reveal and feelings to discover.

I absolutely loved it! ♥?

Definitely one of my favorites now.

Characters ??????????

Jude was one of my favorite characters in this book. And there were a lot of characters to like.

She was a badass, brave and really violent some times. But she was also kind and had a good heart. She was the perfect mixture of both, without seeming too perfect.

Cardan was the most interesting character. He was cruel, but even at his cruelest actions i saw something different in him. Some other feelings hidden beneath his facade.

World ????????

Next to the human world there is Faerie, a world full of magical creatures and the Fey.

A powerful king rules there with a lot of heirs to take the throne when he's finished.

There are humans in this world that made the wrong bargains or the best deals of their life.

Relationships ??????????

First I was a little skeptical about the relationships in this book.

First of all there were some love stories in it. But not the kind, cute ones. There were strange and confusing, but that made the whole story so interesting.

But the most confusing part was the love of the sisters. Whereas Vivi always stayed loyal to her family and I never doubted her feelings toward her sisters, I was always a little suspicious about Taryn. The way she left her sister by herself sometimes was really strange.

Especially because they were twins.

Writing style ????????

I liked Holly Black's writing. It was entertaining and definitely addictive.

I loved that there were flowers at every beginning of a chapter and sometimes little beautiful swords separated parts of the chapters.

And the cover is also absolutely gorgeous.

Katerina says

Brace yourselves, folks, we're jumping on the hype wagon!

"If I cannot be better than them, I will become so much worse."

First Stop: Elfhame

With all the raving reviews about The Cruel Prince, how could little ol' Katerina resist? The Hype (yes, Hype with a capital H because it's a being of its own that swallows the innocent and the weak) was a siren, luring me to dive into its dark waters, and, thankfully, I was not eaten alive. With a **successful blend of modern world and faerie lore**, Holly Black created a **dangerous and mesmerizing tale**, a gripping saga focused on **intrigue, schemes and backstabbing**. Jude was seven years old when a cruel fae showed up on her doorstep, murdering her parents and taking her and her sisters to the realm of the Immortals, a realm so **beautiful and imposing** that hid how **rotten and tainted** it was on the inside. Despite her best efforts, Jude was always humiliated and taunted, a worm daring to live and train among their perfect kin. And her greatest tormentor? Prince Cardan and his band of ~~merry~~ evil ~~men~~ minions. With the coronation of the next king approaching, Jude found her opportunity to shine, to grab a place for herself and hold it with her bleeding hands. But with plots set into motion, and disorienting deceptions, maybe finding her place means giving up the little humanity that's still left in her.

"Because you're like a story that hasn't happened yet. Because I want to see what you will do. I want to be part of the unfolding of the tale."

Next stop: Lake of Backstabbing

People who compare The Cruel Prince to Game of Thrones are not exaggerating. **The conspiracies, the hidden agendas, and the masterful way they unfold** manage to keep you at the edge of your seat throughout the story, you sweat and sweat and wonder who has the upper hand and who is going to perish, whose blood is going to spill, who is the good guy and who the villain (well, in all honesty all of them are the villains but a girl can hope, right?), and you can't help but feel a rush of adrenaline each time those horrible creatures **plot** and **stab** and **spy** and then plot some more. And when all this plotting and stabbing and spying takes place in idyllic landscapes, manors and balls, you can understand why I'm such a goner.

Next stop: Temple of Hate

A curious thing happened with The Cruel Prince; **I didn't like the main characters.** At all. Was I **fascinated?** Of course, they were **beautiful and monstrous**, and that combination sparked a flare of curiosity to see how their stories will play out, but come on, they're horrible! (expect Vivi, you go girl!)

Beneath her frail mortal body and her too-short lifespan, Jude was a hungry, ruthless beast craving power, scheming, betraying, and wanting with a fiery need to become one the creatures that tortured her and rejected her. I was rooting for her to an extent, if only to teach those awful fae that expendable humans can outmaneuver them, but she really needs to calm down, this hunger consumed her thoughts and didn't leave place for other, more pleasant sentiments. ~~Don't get me started on her parade of stupid decisions.~~ And Cardan was not better. Fine YES I had a tiny crush on him (thumbs up for dark jerks who hide their pain), but that doesn't erase the fact that he's cruel, irresponsible and petty, a true bully. Madoc, Locke, Dain, Taryn, they were hideous, but let me tell you this, that is not a bad thing. Sure, I didn't particularly connect with them, but this detachment liberated me from the usual fear for their lives, or sorrow for their misfortunes, only the occasional anger and disgust. **I was invested in their story and not in them**, but somehow this magnified the reading experience! I was there for the bumpy ride, for the malice and the power bid, I sank my teeth into their rotten fruit and was bewitched by their depravity.

“There's always something left to lose.”

Terminal station: Vale of Fangirling

The Cruel Prince was a **beguiling, wicked tale of power, lust, secrets and magic**. The world Holly Black painted, with her lush descriptions, the revels and the colourful creatures that came straight out of a storybook is a place worth visiting, and cherishing. **Drunk on enchanted wine, exhausted from dancing in fancy dresses until my foot hurt, clammy from the swordfights but deliciously invigorated, I am all too eager to return to Elfhame and be a part of the High Court!**

You can find this review and more on BookNest!

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

If I cannot be better than them, I will be so much worse.

The Cruel Prince has just about what you'd expect from Black: **court intrigue, an atmosphere of terror, vaguely dark romance, and a main character who is a terrible person.** Plus some interesting dynamics

and setup for an even better sequel. **Needless to say, I found it delightful.**

I think Black's tendency is to start a story with a **badass opening**, then spend 200 pages on **slow buildup**. At first I thought it was just because this is a series beginner, but the more I think about it, the more I realize her stories never have a typical growth and climax. Instead, she **slowly escalates tension** until suddenly the situation is horrible and you're left wondering how these characters even got there. It's an odd style, and one that will be divisive among readers, but it works for me.

The plot here is **just as slow-burning as usual**, perhaps even more so. I personally thought it suited the story quite well. Even when I was slumping, this book was easy to come back to and enjoy. I have to admit, at spots the court intrigue got **confusing**. Main characters were easy to remember, but I couldn't tell most of the Elder King's children apart.

Maybe my favorite part of this book was the character work. Holly Black is very talented at getting side characters to read real, even without much focus on them. But the real strength of this book is **Jude's flawed, morally grey character**. I fucking loved her. She's a bad person and she's so unapologetic about it and so aware of it.

I also wanted to spare a paragraph for the romance. There is a **sort-of romance** in the first half, and it is honestly **the weakest part of the first three-quarters**. [See my updates for this book.]

Thankfully, **this thrown-in and tensionless romance is improved upon further into the book**. I'm not going to spoil it, exactly, but Holly Black has a certain dynamic that she really loves, and this is... that dynamic. In really good form. Funnily enough, the dynamic between the two characters who I think will get together really turned me off in the first half; I was looking out for some kind of lacking-in-consent **bad-boys-are-hawt** type thing. **That's not what you'll find here**. This is much **more of a genuine Hades/Persephone dynamic** than a bad-boys-are-hot romance. I've written about the difference before on my blog, but this is one of the better handlings of it I've seen. There was one scene in this book between them that... well, I think my brain just screamed "holy shit" for a minute straight. One of those scenes I'm going to bookmark and reread over and over again.

Brief note before I finish this review, and this doesn't need much commentary: **Ben and Severin had a cameo in this**. I almost cried, embarrassingly enough, because the *The Darkest Part of the Forest* is one of my favorite books ever. According to a couple other reviews, some of the side characters - Kaye and Roiben from Tithe - are also **cameos from her first fae series**, if you're at all interested! I didn't notice because I've never read it. But I do like that **she's built a whole world**, without requiring you to read every book for comprehension.

Anyway, I adored this. It is dark and messed up and all the characters have a lot of issues, but I adored this. Recommended for anyone who likes **dark, atmospheric, badass reads**. When is book two coming out again?

[Blog](#) | [Goodreads](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Youtube](#)

PreRead

I got an arc from my local bookstore. This does not influence my rating. It's Holly fucking Black, do you really think she needs the help?

5/20/2017: anyway I finally started this after three fucking weeks

5/12/2017: I can't believe I got an arc of this honestly!!

Lola says

You know a story is good when, at night, before falling asleep, you eagerly replay the story in your mind, but this time with you as the main character living an exciting adventure full of intrigue, danger and romance.

It's one of my preferred ways of falling in the arms of Morpheus.

What we have here is Holly Black's best work if I dare say so myself. I am amazed with this author's ability to paint scenes of faerie romance, glamour, deception and terror that make your heart pound and stop, pound and stop, pound and stop. I'm glad she experimented so much with the faerie world in the past, because it led her to write this precious book.

Holly Black doesn't reinvent faeries, but she does give them flair. Before I came across her stories, I thought of faeries as annoying little snickering creatures you have to try hard not to step on.

But these faeries are... powerful and sexy. They're in full control, because the story is set in their territory. This isn't about faeries invading the human world; it's about a human girl doing everything she can to gain strength against the creatures who have kept her from having a normal, human childhood.

Jude is so flawed it's beautiful. She doesn't pretend to be strong, she knows she isn't. Still, she tries to be and tries harder than anyone else, because she knows her species is at a disadvantage. She lies, she cheats, she kills. There is nothing she isn't willing to do if it means accomplishing her goals. At the same time, she is not unreasonable and devoid of compassion.

I loved her dark side.

One element that could have been better is the writing. Don't get me wrong, it's very addictive and effective, since it manages to crawl deep into your soul, but the syntax is far from perfect (e.g. *Mom screamed. Jude screamed. Taryn and Vivi screamed. Everyone seemed to be screaming, except the tall man.* page 5). I'm all for writers taking certain liberties, but this is pushing it. I needed to mention this, because while I do think this book is a great addition to the fantasy genre, I will always value a book with beautiful, well-formed sentences more.

Anyhow, read this if you're in need of a fast-paced, unstoppable adventure.

[Blog](#) | [Youtube](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Google+](#) | [Bloglovin'](#)

Brittney ~ Reverie and Ink says

"If I cannot be better than them, I will become so much worse."

I see why people call Holly Black 'Queen of the Faeries'. Hooooly wow. What a delightfully dark, twisty

novel.

If you know anything about me, I'm all about the court politics & intrigue, villains & anti-heroes, and schemes within plots within schemes. This book had my name written ALL over it.

Okay so here's the basic rundown without giving away too much. Jude and Taryn are twins. Vivi is their older sister. It turns out, Vivi's real father, Madoc, is fae. When the girls are young, he comes for Vivi, kills their parents, and sees Jude and Taryn as his responsibilities since their mother was his... ex. To put it lightly. He whisks them away to Faerie to be raised alongside his family. Having grown up with Madoc as the only father they knew, Taryn and Jude have come to love him like a father, while Vivi promises to always hate him for what he did.

Being the general's daughters, Jude and her sisters are raised alongside the High King's sons and daughters. Each sibling has their own group of friends, spies, etc.

Enter Cardan.

Cardan is the youngest prince, and on the surface, the cruellest. Anyone who gets in his way, annoys him, or disrespects him, ends up paying dearly. Jude hates him with a passion, to say the least. He has that whole 'school bully' syndrome and is impossibly arrogant (all the makings of a delicious prince, amirite?)

Jude just wants to belong. Unlike her sister, she loves the land of Faerie. Her dream is to become a knight. She wants a position of power that will earn her freedom and respect. But after being bullied and harassed by Cardan and his lackeys, Jude is fed up.

"My good intentions evaporate on the wind. My blood is on fire, boiling in my veins. I do not have much power, but here is what I have - I can force his hand. Cardan might want to hurt me, but I can make him want to hurt me worse."

So we have a bit of a prank war, but a life-threatening one. Jude stops trying to control her temper, and she starts fighting back. She gets in a few good swings at Cardan, which royally pisses him off in the most delightful way. It catches the attention of the rest of the royal family, including Prince Dain. He meets Jude in secret and offers her a position of power if she spies for him. Dain is the chosen son, the one that will inherit the crown via his father's favor.

So Jude accepts his offer and becomes part of his 'Court of Shadows'.

Political games ensue. Jude gets in over her head. (Or does she?)

I don't want to say more than that, but that's the general idea of the opening. Only, it becomes so much more. Jude discovers secrets within secrets about the court, and with the coronation coming up, things get especially intense. Not to mention, her twin sister says she has a secret lover but she refuses to reveal his identity.

When shit hits the fan, oh man, it gets SO good. The ending was phenomenal, and the sequel is set up to be AMAZING and I don't know how I'm going to wait... *screams into the void*

That. Epilogue.

Help.

Bah, ok. Anyway... Jude is a fantastic main character. She's cunning, witty, and so supremely dark. Perhaps darker than Cardan himself at times. She's complex (so is everyone else) and relatable and easily has one of the strongest voices I've come across in a YA novel. I loved how complicated things get with her sisters and Madoc's family, and how buried some of the secrets are. Oh man. What a cool (and awful) family dynamic. I also looooved how vivid the royal family is. Of course, Cardan is my favorite, because I am utterly helpless when it comes to characters like him. Is there ever something between him and Jude, you ask? I admit nothing, but if you could pass me your fan...

Ugh, and the world. Holly Black's writing is lush in every way imaginable, and she excels in bringing such a fantastical world to life. None of it felt made up. She doesn't shy away from anything dark, either. This isn't a pretty fairie land, folks. Here be monsters.

[My Blog](#) ~ [Instagram](#) ~ [Twitter](#) ~ [Etsy](#)

Val...Shameless.Skanky.B*tchy. says

Well, despite marking this as "currently reading" (I put books there that I plan to read within the next week or two) I finally cracked this bad boy open today...and finished it in one three-hour sitting.

So, if that's not an indication of something being a seriously above average read, I don't know what is.

Jude was a really edgy, imperfect, relatable character and I really liked her.

So often, I want characters to do something - maybe say something or do something *I* want them to do in a specific moment - and I am left feeling frustrated and annoyed when they don't.

They DON'T deliver the nasty comeback I feel someone so amazingly deserves.

They DON'T punch the face of the asshole who has done them wrong.

They DON'T say "fuck you" to the person who just betrayed them.

But, Jude?

Home girl DID all of those things and more and I loved it.

She saw that proverbial high road on some occasions, the one other characters sometimes begged her to take and she said:

Get it, girl.

On top of that, the plot here was pretty well thought out and I enjoyed the twists and turns, none of which felt convenient or trite.

It will definitely be interesting to see what happens with the plot and certain character relationships in the next book.

The wait will be long.

Oh and PS...fuck you, Taryn.

Miranda Reads says

Stunning modern fairy tale a la Holly Black.

If I cannot be better than them, I will become so much worse.

Jude (and her twin, Taryn) are human but their older sister (Vivi) **belonged to another world.**

Their mother fled fairlyland when she was pregnant with Vivi and escaped to the human world. Their mother gave birth to the half-fairy Vivi, married and soon had Jude & Taryn.

But their little family could not stay hidden.

Madoc (her mother's ex husband) belongs to the fae and according to **their wild ways**, he was **honor-bound to murder their mother** for abandoning his family and stealing away Vivi.

Operating by that same sense of honor, **he took in the now-orphaned children to be raised as his own.**

Father, I am what you made me. I've become your daughter after all.

Jude and Taryn embrace this **wondrous and fearsome world** - finding their place among the crazed and the creative, the beasts and the beauties, the tragedies and terrors.

However, as much as they try, **fairyland is no place for humans.**

If you hurt me, I wouldn't cry. I would hurt you back.

As Taryn cringes in fear, **Jude stiffens her spine.** If they get tormented, **Jude taunts back.** And when Jude is pushed, **she attacks.**

Cardan looks at me as though he's never seen me before. He looks at me as though no one has ever spoken to him like this. Maybe no one has.

Another stunning series by Holly Black. The beginning was a bit slow, so if you aren't feeling it at the beginning - keep going! Once the setting and characters are established - wow. Seriously wow. And that ending - I literally cannot wait for book 2.

Because you're like a story that hasn't happened yet. Because I want to see what you will do. I want to be part of the unfolding of the tale.

The 2018 ABC Reading Challenge- C

Audiobook Comments

Read by Caitlin Kelly and she absolutely rocked it. An absolute pleasure to listen to!!

[Blog](#) | [Instagram](#)

Emma Giordano says

Absolutely loved this read!! A wondrous fantasy novel that is easy to get invested in. So many great plot twists and high-intensity, suspenseful moments!

TW: murder, physical abuse, sexual abuse, suicide

Holly Black is truly the queen of creating exquisite worlds. Her interpretation of faeries is always so fascinating and glorious. It's hard to fully capture what it is about her world-building that is so magical, but her books are always my favorite when it comes to faeries. I believe a part of it is that she flawlessly captures the danger and darkness of fey while also displaying the beauty of their magic. There are few words to accurately describe her talent for writing intriguing and beautiful fantasy worlds.

I really enjoyed the characters in this story. Jude is a great protagonist – her fierceness is complimented by her vulnerability, which makes her very realistic considering her circumstances. The relationships between characters are also fascinating, especially the family dynamics. The way Jude views her sisters and “adoptive” family are very unique in my opinion.

I also enjoyed the fact that this is not a romance novel. Though it is weaved in here and there, I feel the overarching plot becomes full of politics as the story progresses. I will admit, I did lose focus at sometimes while listening to the audiobook because so much of this novel is centered on political relationships, the complications of monarchies, dynamics between different courts, and plotting to overthrow. That being said, it is so well developed and different from many YA books that I overall had a great experience with it.

In total, The Cruel Prince was fantastic. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in fantasy, faeries, political intrigue, or just an all-around immersive novel.

***?Nani*? says**

384 pages. ZERO SUBSTANCE.

Unless you call pages littered with problematic shit... substance.

I don't get it. I just don't fucking get it.

? Before: This book is my 1st experience with Holly Black. It'll either make or break our future relationship.

? **After:** Any plans for a potential future relationship is hereby terminated. Over. Done with. Null and void. Cancelled... you get the point.

when you go into a book expecting gold and it ends up being your worst read of the year. In January...

Oh, the rage...

Emily May says

No matter how careful I am, eventually I'll make another misstep. I am weak. I am fragile. I am mortal.

I hate that most of all.

4 1/2 stars. Over the course of this year, I've read both books that I've liked and books I've disliked. I've read books that I've loved and, it's fair to say, books that are better written, more unique, and more groundbreaking than this book. That being said, however, I am struggling to recall a book that has left me this excited about a YA series in a very long time.

It seems like forever since I read a completely juicy YA fantasy with just the right amount of **drama, action, surprises, nastiness and the tiniest hints at romantic possibility**. The wait for the next book is going to be torture!

Holly Black knows her audience so well. She's not kind to us because she knows we don't really want that anyway. So of course The Cruel Prince opens with a brutal murder that leaves Jude, her twin sister Taryn, and their older sister Vivienne at the mercy of the redcap general - Madoc. Jump to ten years later, and the three sisters are all living in Faerie. They've been raised as Madoc's own, more or less, and each is trying to find her own place among the beautiful but cruel, deceitful but always honest, fey.

For Vivi, return to the human world is the answer. For Taryn, assimilation and playing by the rules is the only way. For our narrator - Jude - rebellion, bloodshed and winning her place in the King's council is what she desires.

Nicasia's wrong about me. I do not desire to do as well in the tournament as one of the fey. I want to win. I do not yearn to be their equal.

In my heart, I yearn to best them.

It is extremely compelling. Even before the real drama kicks off in the later chapters, I was so wholly pulled into Jude's world. The bullying she endures at the hands of her fey classmates adds a heavy dose of unfairness to keep you pissed enough to turn the pages. Then we get to the spying, secrets, betrayals, side-switching and, oh wow, can I just have the next book please?

In truth, not a single character is entirely likeable. All are complex, more than a little flawed, and nobody can be trusted. Even Jude. It's really quite wonderful. Cardan, the "cruel prince" from the title, is an asshole. A

drunken, bullying, selfish asshole. And yet... and yet. We shall see.

In case it wasn't obvious, **I loved it**. All the drama is absolutely delicious and, while Black does draw on some familiar tropes, the world, characters and politics feel fresh in her hands. It charges to a climax full of surprises and the ending doesn't disappoint. Nicely wrapped up but with enough to leave me desperate for the next instalment. I can't wait!

"Nice things don't happen in storybooks," Taryn says. "Or when they do happen, something bad happens next. Because otherwise the story would be boring, and no one would read it."

[Blog](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Youtube](#)

Erynn says

?4.75/5?

This was absolutely lovely and magical. Ya'll, the hype surrounding this book is all very real. Please do yourself a favor, sit down with a large cup of tea/coffee and **READ THIS**.

Where do I even *begin*? My mind is still reeling from all of the twists and turns! Holly Black really outdid herself with this one, you guys. She really did.

The characters were *amazing*. Not all of them were, but the ones that had to be, were brilliant. I mean, I love Holly Black for making Jude the was she was. A girl with a heart who cares for her family and whatnot, but can also kill you and make serious threats. I mean *what*?! Are we finally getting strong and evil and cunningly awesome females? I seriously hope so! And of course I don't condone villainous people, but if it's in a book, I freaking love reading from their perspective. And let me tell you, Jude isn't that nice girl next door. She's absolutely ruthless.

Then there's Cadan. I saw someone write an update saying that, "Bad guys turned to good guys is so overused," when describing this book and Cadan. I guess I agree with them, in a way. However, when it's done *well*, like the way Black made you despise Cadan in the beginning and then come to love him, is just magic in its own way. Seriously! I knew I should hate him but I couldn't stop loving him.

I just realized this review has a million exclamation marks and is probably one of the worst reviews I've ever written. Oh well. I can't help myself. This was too good, and I can't coherently put words together.

But honestly, if any of ya'll love magic, deception, spies, forbidden love, a kick-butt heroine, beautiful people, folklore, etc... Then, this is a book for **YOU!**

Overall, I don't know what you're still doing here, 'cause you really ought to be out there getting into that horribly sad, yet flawlessly written, prologue. Go on. You know you want to.

Victoria Aveyard says

I require book 2 immediately. Holly is the Faerie Queen.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

I already knew it was coming but here is my Fairyloot box =) Clink link below pic to see about the items!

FAIRYLOOT STUFF

OMG! Click on my link below the picture to see close-ups and my synopsis of the items =)

OWLCRATE STUFF

Holy sh*t balls! I love it =)

I love Jude! She's my new bad to the bone girl! She gets dragged away with her two sisters to Faerie by the man that killed her parents. Lives in Faerie most of her life. Is training to fight and can handle a sword very well. She wants to be a Knight but she turns into so many other things.

She takes bullying every day and doesn't let them get her down. You go girl!

She plots and plans and gets it done!!!! Well, this is only the first book. We have to see how she can handle it all in the next book/s.

I love some of the side characters in this book; The Bomb, Roach, The Ghost. I love Bomb the most. She's awesome, hence her nickname.

We have little Oak who is the little brother. Madoc who is an off and on jerk. Oriana who is an off and on jerk. Prince Dain who I never trusted to begin with and Locke who I never trusted to begin with either.

Prince Cardan is a jerk face too. But, he has his reasons. There are more peeps -er-faeries that are jerks in the book but it's pretty common. Lol

Anyhoo, I loved it and I'm glad because I own 3 copies of the book in all the beautiful covers =D

Happy Reading!

Mel ♥

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

AMAZON: REVIEW

Em says

tips mic thank you for joining me this evening. this song is called: here's how I feel about this book.
screams for 12 continuous hours

this book just killed me in the comfort of my own home. my feelings are owed so many apologies because I have been emotionally compromised by Holly Black and I just want to lie on the floor and not think for a month or two. I mean, honestly, why read this book when you can just get hit by a bus and get the same feeling???

Truly though, I wish I could get a tattoo of the way this book made me feel because I don't think I'll ever be able to replicate the absolute love and yearning that came with the magic and pure dreaminess I felt whilst reading it.

This is the kind of book you read and you're filled to the brim with glee at the author's wording and characterization and imagination and ingenuity, so much that your eyes start skipping lines because you're so impatient for what happens next and you have to force yourself to read every word. Sometimes, you even have to re-read passages because you've missed actual events while you were too busy anticipating and predicting. Oftentimes, you have to stop reading completely because the words are so good and you're so full of excitement and love that you need to expend some of that energy, otherwise you'll just spontaneously combust!

It's that feeling of finally finding something that is all-encompassing enough to hold your full attention and something inside of you just awakens and I love it!!

? so what is this book about?

Jude is the bastard daughter of the runaway wife of a Fae general who murdered both of her parents then brought her to a land coiled in the heart of the forest, brimming of monsters and wolves on the prowl, and raised her like a trueborn child of Faerie, despite not having a drop of faerie blood.

Jude grew up where the wild is. She learned to keep her head down and pretend the fear away. She endured the contempt of the Fae, swallowed her fear and saw it through. She was the human girl who got pushed to the sidelines, written as a footnote in someone else's story, and always treated as an afterthought.

Jude didn't fit into the borders they gave her. She didn't fit into the ways they saw her. She didn't fit and the moment she stopped wishing she could be and instead, held onto the lingering bitter urge to make them all hurt, she's learned that being ruthless in the face of great terror was her best revenge for being made to endure it.

*“I want to win. I do not yearn to be their equal.
In my heart, I yearn to best them.”*

So, she's traveled in the direction of her fear and let herself be spiraled up into a world of alliances, of fractured loyalties, of deceit, of political games and spilled secrets that chased everyone into their graves. She's joined a nest of spies and assassins and eventually, she's become one.

However, now that she's tasted the brine of darkness, it threatened to swallow everything she has worked so hard to build.

"I have lied and I have betrayed and I have triumphed. If only there was someone to congratulate me."

This book was a wild ride. It was a whole blanket and it was near impossible to isolate the threads. My stress levels surpassed Joyce Byers in literally every episode of Stranger Things. Nonetheless, just so you all know..... if at any point in my lifetime the opportunity arises for me to retreat into this book and into the world of Fae, and politics.....I'm gone. Especially if I could run in the hallways of a castle wearing an exquisite silk gown or given an ancient elaborate dagger with my name engraved into the blade as a gift!

? the characters:

My favorite thing about this book is how my feelings for the characters seemed to ebb and flow. The biggest plot twist that's happened is probably the fact that characters I first wished I could strangle with limp noodles became my favorites and others I liked, I've grown to absolutely hate.

Basically, what I'm saying is that most of these characters are like face masks for my soul; the rest, I'll see in hell.

? JUDE

I don't know if anyone can put into words my unending love for Jude. In fact, I'm sure the only romance in this book was between Jude and whoever was reading it.

Jude is a volcano, her heart made of molten, ready to burn the world alive. She radiates such a petrifying energy and I'm not sure I can quite describe it. It's not exactly bad but it's not warm either. I feel like she could seriously unhinge my jaw and drag me into the ocean like a kraken but she wouldn't because it's undignified, you know what I mean??

I love how she was afraid, but did everything anyway. How she didn't wait to be confident. How her actions stemmed in fear but she didn't let it deter her from telling the world that she was important through the ways she carried herself and realizing that in order to be what she wanted to be, she needed to *take* it.

"Instead of being afraid, I will become something to fear."

And honestly, I can't wait to see her fully transform into the wronged, fallen angel look she was meant for!!

? PRINCE CARDAN

Sometimes, you just have to....you know, **makes heart gestures and motions that probably mean love** root for the most morally questionable asshole.

Listen, I spent a good portion of this book violently wishing Cardan would get dry skin that no lotion can moisturize. However, by chapter 23, I was smiling at myself and thinking, “what a fucking loser” but like...in the purest and most loving way possible. Besides, if Holly Black really wanted me to hate him, she shouldn’t have given him a strong jawline and put a crown of flowers on his silky black hair. I am too damn weak!

Cardan is the cruel prince but then again, they ALL are. The only difference, I suppose, is the High King's sentiment towards them, which roughly translates to: "when my sons were born, the sun shone bright upon their beautiful faces.....I found Cardan on the sidewalk outside a taco bell."

Prince Cardan is an elitist prick (I mean, he *is*) and simultaneously a traumatized victim of years of neglect and systematic emotional and physical abuse. He was cruel by necessity. He grew up in a house where he always had to be clever and cunning to figure out the right thing to say, the right way to act in order to not set his abusive brother off, to estimate how to quickly diffuse bad situations, to find quick ways to escape an escalating argument. He became ambitious only in wanting to get away from his royal family. Cardan was a forged facade and oftentimes, not even *he* knew which face he was wearing.

I am in no way condoning the many contentious actions he's done but my heart still holds a soft spot for him. Because underneath the armor he's built up for himself, **there's a complete trainwreck of a person** (shows up drunk on the day of his brother's coronation + copes with having a crush by aggressively writing her name on a crumpled piece of paper + has enormous character flaws that he had no intention of working on + has zero sense of self preservation + drinks wine & plays cards with his kidnappers because at this point why not + *extreme* cynicism towards self + is generally really sarcastic for someone who's about to start crying most of the time).

? JUDE & CARDAN

Why can't I cope with life without depending on the relationship status between two fictional characters???

I don't even want a relationship. I just want to be like them and have a supreme enemy I can make out with sometimes in secret and who's obligated to stroke my hair and tell me I'm the bane of their existence but they like me anyway!!

? GENERAL MADOC

Madoc would be so disappointed in all my life decisions, but I feel like I would need that and once he was done telling me to buck up, we would hug and he would give me a cool engraved sword and I would cry and it would all be fine!!

Madoc is such a dynamic and well-written villain. And I appreciate his character while also recognizing the fact that he is evil and selfish and has done many terrible, terrible things. He's full of good intentions that twist on the way out, a warped sense of loyalty and a semblance of love that is so misguided and yeah

occasionally, it murders things. He's built this contoured version of the truth with urban decay setting spray that he can stand to look at, because at the end of the day no one wants to believe they're the villain in the story.

“Some are good with pipes or paint. Some have skill in love,” he says finally. “My talent is in making war. The only thing that has ever kept me awake was denying it.”

I also appreciate the fact that he refused to switch sides due to his own personal convictions, that not even his love for his family could sate his thirst for power and bloodshed and wasn't eventually “redeemed” by being forced into an out of character relationship. I just [clenches fist] really love it when VILLAINS ARE LEFT TO BE VILLAINS.

? VIVIENNE

I loved Vivi from the get go BUT the minute I learned she was **bisexual?** she went from a 10 to a 52124822179 real fast.

Vivi is Jude's half sister, and general Madoc's legitimate daughter. She's soft, kind and loving but also takes nobody's shit and she's seen so much sadness and heartache because she's that friend that everyone unloads on and I hope she takes a bit of me time for herself and her human girlfriend, maybe a hot bath and some jasmine scented candles too. Please, they deserve it!!

? LOCKE

I have never, in my entire life, gotten into a fist fight but you best believe if I ever meet this piece of shit, I would immediately start swinging. I can deal with literally any ship in this book happening, but if my OTP (Locke/a horrible death) doesn't become canon, I will throw a fit.

I don't even know what to tell you about Locke. But, you know how some shows bring in a love triangle just to try and up the ratings?? that's basically what Locke is trying to do with *his life*. He's wishing into existence his own revenge fantasy novel without taking into account real life consequences people face and gets off on watching girls duelling like we're in an episode of yu-gi-oh. what, pray tell, the actual fuck??

? TARYN

Oh, Taryn, such a delightfully paradoxical character: she's a *dick* despite not actually having one.

I hate her so much I wish she would just go take a dip in a lava pool on a 130 degree day at the zenith of a southern summer in satan's buttcrack. Honestly, the level of Done that I am with her is utterly insurmountable. Someone fly her to a golf halfway around the world and just leave her there. Please.

Anyway, that's all!! if any of you guys need me, I'll be down here on the floor, dying and slowly fading into an elaborately constructed maladaptive landscape where my favorite characters are well and content and I don't have to wait an entire year to find out.

Emily (Books with Emily Fox) says

Sorry folks, I don't get it.

2.5? Maybe...

Unmemorable. Another YA fantasy with fairies and humans, clichés and cringe romance similar to all the other fantasy/dystopian books that have been coming out. I don't understand the hype because there was nothing I found good in here. There wasn't anything horrible either which leaves me with a "meh" review.

Won't continue the series. Don't recommend it.
