



She Was Nice To Mice: The Other Side of Elizabeth I's Character Never Before Revealed by Previous Historians

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The memoirs of a literary mouse living at the court of Elizabeth I reveal the public and private life of the Queen and her courtiers.

She Was Nice To Mice: The Other Side of Elizabeth I's Character Never Before Revealed by Previous Historians Details

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From Reader Review She Was Nice To Mice: The Other Side of Elizabeth I's Character Never Before Revealed by Previous Historians for online ebook

AZ Beavers says

I don't know how my parents found this book, but it's a good one. Ally Sheedy, pre-Breakfast Club, of course, wrote a cute little story about Queen Elizabeth I and her court of mice-friends. Sweet book.

Jimmy says

Picked this up after I found out Ally Sheedy (from Breakfast Club, among others) wrote this when she was twelve! I was interested in knowing what kind of story a twelve year old (Ally Sheedy, no less!!!) would write. Well it turns out to be a very odd, yet interesting book. The framing device is completely unneeded and the plot doesn't actually go anywhere, but it's still a very good book for other reasons. Part of it is that it's a children's book written by a child, and some parts contain things you wouldn't find in other children's books: sex, beheadings, etc. Also Sheedy's mind works in funny ways, and the book is very "fresh". You can tell that Sheedy had been reading a lot about her subject as well as some novels, so it's interesting what kinds of devices and conventions she uses here and which ones she completely ignores. I really enjoyed this book, and I hope she continues to write more.

Gretchen says

Otherwise known as 'Allie Sheedy'. Yep. That one. Written when she was young. Amusing, quick read about England's Queen Elizabeth I.

Chandra says

I read this lovely little book when it was first released, back in 1975, enchanted at the time by the notion that the writer and illustrator were both so close to me in age. I found it deeply engrossing, from the miniature world of palace mice to the Elizabethan court intrigue. It was a book I returned to many times, a fascinating blend of whimsy and darkness. Sheedy never flinched from that darkness, of love betrayed, sex, death, and madness. The queen's gradual decay, both physically as well and mentally, is portrayed with compassion and sensitivity, a remarkable feat when one remembers that the author was only 12 at the time of publication. Indeed, I find it quite amusing that many prudish online reviewers have chosen to focus more on 12 year old Sheedy's very mild suggestions of Elizabeth I's sexuality than the monarch's heartbreaking loneliness and despair at the close of the book, so well written by such a young author.

I am grateful that I read this long before the public was aware of Ally Sheedy the actress, I had no such baggage as an early fan of this book. I will treasure Sheedy's first work as I did as a child: that writing stories and making art will always be possible for those who wish to create.

Kelly says

Written by the actress Ally Sheedy (well, Alexandra Elizabeth Sheedy) when she only twelve years old. It's been on my shelf for a zillion years, and I finally cracked it open.

It tells the story of a mouse who resides in the court of Elizabeth I and keeps a diary of her observations. There is a framing story of a modern-day mouse who is bequeathed this diary.

It's quite clever for a person so young to have written, and little Alexandra certainly did a lot of research into the Elizabethan era.

But, just as parts of it are mature for her age, it's sometimes adorably naive. Some have remarked about a scene they think of as shocking, wherein Essex is hidden under her bed as Elizabeth removes her many outer garments. (The outrage is a bit excessive, considering that he is hiding rather than watching—and says so later—and the undergarments she has on are more than some people's whole outfits consist of these days. I guess they would be shocked by a nightdress or a union suit as well.)

It's a little more odd (for a children's book) when Elizabeth and Essex retire to bed together, but the scene ends there, as the observing mouse wishes to give them privacy. It reminds me of myself at the same age as the writer, when my Barbies would go on dates with G.I. Joe, then I'd put them on the cot in the tent and close the flap and wait. I had some inkling that these things were done, but I didn't know the details, so, like the mouse, I just exited the scene.

The details of the beheading are pretty dark, and I suppose it has bothered some folks, too. I'm of the opinion that if a kid is clever enough to read this book and be interested in it (especially the historical detail and mature vocabulary), they can probably handle a historically true beheading and some offstage intimacy. To each parent his own, though.

I wish I'd read it as a child, because it's exactly the sort of thing I would have liked. Maybe more 12 year-olds should write books—especially if they're this intelligent.

Kara says

Impressive given the age of the writer. Its kind of Beatrix Potter meets *The Borrower's* plus *Ben and Me*, set in the Elizabethan era.

Surprisingly though, not at all/ G rated.

Tara says

I was influenced by this book because I knew that a 12-year old girl wrote it. "If she can publish a book, I can do it," is what I told myself in second grade.

Susan says

Sweet little book about the mice in the palace of Elizabeth I. Nice break!

Heather says

Written by Ally Sheedy at age 12, this book was a little too weird. It's told from a mouse's point of view and there is a sex scene. Wow.

Susanna - Censored by GoodReads says

I adored this book when I was a child. My mother bought it for me when it first came out, as I had loved both The Wives of Henry VIII and Elizabeth R on Masterpiece Theatre. Good choice, Mom!

Zoe Koch says

Very good but short book

Elizabeth says

I don't know about this paperback edition, but I had a lovely tiny hardback with a white cover and the original line art in black. My mother bought this for me and I adored it. Fun fact: the author is Ally Sheedy of Breakfast Club fame and she wrote it when she was 12.

Adrielle Stapleton says

This is a fun quick read that was written by a twelve year old. I'm auditioning books written by children to read with my seven year old niece, and this one has some mature content so it's a no-go, but I had fun reading it.

Wendy says

Picked this up because it was written by the young Ally Sheedy (of 1980's movie fame). The story is about life from a mouse's perspective in Queen Elizabeth's court.

It's a strange little book that I'd hesitate to classify as a real children's book (even though it was written by a youth) mostly because Elizabeth and Essex are portrayed as being lovers -- there's no explicit love scenes exactly but it's plainly presented that the two sleep together. I thought this was kind of odd coming from a young person and in view of the subject being the Virgin Queen. (Maybe it's also because I ship Elizabeth with Dudley over Essex any day!)

Interesting read if you're curious what little Miss Sheedy was thinking about. She obviously was into Queen Elizabeth and her world for a while. As for the mice, they're pretty cute. Seems like a bit of a vanity book as in I could see the parents promoting this one. While it probably is better than what a lot of twelve-year-olds could turn out, it's no classic.

2.5

Alicia Thompson says

This book was listed as a corresponding literature selection in The Story of the World Vol. II. I chose it and was reading it aloud to my son, age 8.

While I personally thought it was pretty reasonable, I put it down when the neighbor kids came over. It just so happened to coincide with the part where Q. E. I and Essex have sex. I was so taken aback by what was happening in the story that I was grateful for the interruption. I didn't pick it up to finish it.

This was recommended as a homeschool supplement in a textbook targeted for 3rd or 4th graders. The book is only 95 pages and there were two obvious references to sex in the first half; the first being a simple phrase that my kids probably wouldn't get; the second was about as subtle as a hand grenade. On its own, I think it's fine. But it was a bit much for my 3rd grader.
