



An Uncertain Choice

Jody Hedlund

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Due to her parents' promise at her birth, Lady Rosemarie has been prepared to become a nun on the day she turns eighteen. Then, a month before her birthday, a friend of her father's enters the kingdom and proclaims her parents' will left a second choice. If Rosemarie can marry before the eve of her eighteenth year, she will be exempt from the ancient vow.

Before long, Rosemarie is presented with the three most handsome and brave knights in the land. But when the competition for her heart seemingly results in a knight playing foul, she begins to wonder if the cloister is the best place after all. If only one of the knights the one who appears the most guilty had not already captured her heart.

An Uncertain Choice Details

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Author : Jody Hedlund

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From Reader Review An Uncertain Choice for online ebook

Agbbreaze says

I received a free advance reader's copy of this book at the ALA Midwinter conference.

Having never read anything by Jody Hedlund before, I wasn't particularly familiar with her writing style or subject matter. Unfortunately, I still found this book seriously disappointing and almost boring enough to give up on half way through.

Our protagonist, Lady Rosemarie, is bound by a vow made by her parents to join a convent by her 18th birthday. BUT - there is an escape clause, provided she finds True Love and gets married first. We are, of course, supposed to ignore how utterly unimportant love was in marriages in the middle ages. She gets to spend a month being wooed by three highly eligible knights, because of course she does.

There was nothing about this book that was unexpected - clearly she is going to fall for the brave but stoic knight who pays her the least attention (she is, of course, beautiful and kind and totally amazing, and the other two have plenty of things to compliment her on). The villain is the least poorly disguised villain outside of superhero movies, which is frustrating since we're supposed to be like Rosemarie and not know who it is until the last moment. Really, how does she not pick up on this?

Anything unexpected that actually did happen felt like an out of place manufactured plot point. The main character trait of Rosemarie, that she is VERY CONCERNED about the well being of her subjects, especially the poor ones, was overplayed so much that it made her almost unlikable. The entire premise, dialog, and actions seemed so out of place from the time period in which it was set that it's hard to properly envision anything.

The saving grace was that it was a quick, light read, making it easy to finish.

Erin says

I have long been a fan of Jody Hedlund's Christian historical romances and was interested in her YA ventures. An Uncertain Choice reminded me of my mother's Kathleen E Woodiwiss books, but much purer. You know the type, where the mere sight of the heroine's love interest sets her "cheeks aflame and her insides quiver" Something that I giggle at, but also deliciously enjoy.

In this medieval romance, Lady Rosemarie must choose between three handsome knights vying for her affections or commit herself to the convent. But with the sheriff causing problems and her people stricken by a strange illness, will Lady Rosemarie be able to break an ancient oath before her eighteenth birthday?

Okay, it's all a bit sugary sweet but I couldn't help but like the book. The chapters are short and it was nice to just read a nice clean story. The only quibble I had was the p.o.v changed many times even within chapters and sometimes it took me a moment to sort out who was talking.

All in all, a great tale that I would recommend to the young and young at heart.

Shantelle says

A fairytale-ish, medieval, YA romance by Jody Hedlund! ^_^ It was quite fun and sweet - a regular princess and knights tale!

Lady Rosemarie is an orphan destined to rule as queen over her people. The one thing is that she'll be ruling from a convent, through the family priest, because a vow was made that she forgo marriage and become a nun. Rosemarie has almost resigned herself to this fate, when a duke, a family friend, a three handsome knights ride into her life.

... If she marries before her eighteenth birthday, she will be exempted from the vow. But will she fall in love before then? And who is trying to thwart that at all costs?

I just really enjoyed this story. It was fun, it was cute. Yes, some parts could feel a tad cheesy or unrealistic ... but who cares! It has a definite fairytale feel, so I'm okay with some unrealistic scenarios.

And despite *An Uncertain Choice* being a princess sort of YA book, the romance had some depth to it. It actually came about rather beautifully. (view spoiler) Anyway, I was surprised how much I liked the romance.

And I liked the duke too! (view spoiler)

There were a few parts that took away from the light fairytale feel. Some really gruesome torture methods were spoken of ... *shudder* There was one in particular that was horrific. EEK! So caution, caution because of that! Otherwise there's not really much for violence.

I don't know. I simply loved *An Uncertain Choice* all in all. I love fairytales; and this was such, just without the magic. And plus it had some poignant and sweet themes. I quite enjoyed it. Very excited for book two in this series! :)

Leah says

DNF on pg. 119

Trying to go through old netgalley novels and this one sounded cute and fun. Unfortunately, Rosemarie is Queen of the Mary Sues and is descended from a long line of Mary Sues: her parents died during the Plague because they insisted on being out in the kingdom to help the sick. Rosemarie has been on her own since then (?! the big, strong manly men were okay with a teenage girl running the realm??) and now she has a month to go until her 18th birthday when she'll enter into a convent. HOWEVER, a loophole was discovered which states that she's able to avoid life as a nun if she finds her true love and marries.

What follows is essentially a medieval version of a reality dating show. The neighboring duke brings three knights to woo Rosemarie and my eyes were rolling with each sentence. It reached the point where I couldn't stand hearing again about Rosemarie's beauty, how kind and caring she is, how the townsfolk love her. At one point Rosemarie pouts because two knights showered her with elaborate gifts (jewels, gowns, etc) and the third didn't. Boo hoo.

Multiple times Rosemarie muses on selling off possessions in the castle in order to give more to the poor villagers. Her subjects basically were a way to show just how selfless she was and it came across as cheesy.

Numerous times Rosemarie delivers leftovers to people, bans all use of torture/punishment. There are better, **more believable** ways to show a compassionate character and *An Uncertain Choice* failed miserably in that sense.

As for the title, there's nothing uncertain about it - there are two narrators, Rosemarie and the knight she ultimately chooses, so there's no surprise whatsoever. I ended up skimming the final few chapters and things ended exactly as I had assumed (baby and all.) I really wanted to enjoy this one, but it was a disappointment.

Haley S says

Oh, wow, this book is just so amazing. And, no, this isn't the first time I have read this book. I have read this book at least...hmm...three times, maybe more.

Anyway, I love this book. *An Uncertain Choice* was my first Jody Hedlund book, and it got me hooked. To be honest, I haven't read all of Hedlund's books yet, but I am working on it!

So, the whole 'game' between the three knights at Rosemarie left me hanging on the edge of my seat. It was kind of obvious of who she would fall in love with, but that didn't stop me from reading on to make sure my hypothesis was correct. So, I read on...and on...and on.

I may not be correct on saying this, but I believe that I finished this book in one night. Yeah, I was excited and intrigued! mean, the first scene is a man being boiled to death. NO! Don't runaway from me now!!! It isn't as creepy as it sounds. There are no details. Believe me, if there were details, I would have dropped the book and ran. And, just so you know, the man does live because...a knight in shining armor comes riding in...(I squealed at that part, by the way.)

I totally believe that this book deserves five bright stars--brighter than Sirius, the second brightest star.

Title: *Uncertain Choice*

Author: Jody Hedlund

Author's Website: <http://jodyhedlund.com/>

This review is written in my own opinions and words.

Rissi says

The beautiful prose that is Jody Hedlund's style has previously only been found in her adult, inspirational fiction. She had readers swoony over a certain Noble Groom (and a kiss to go with it!) and has taken readers back to many a fascinating era in history. In 2015, Jody took on an unfamiliar genre: Young Adult. Though the novel is still set in historical times, this book is certainly a step back from her usual normal and yet it rises, and in many instances surpasses the expectations readers will have had for the book. The story itself is like a Cinderella-esque fairytale with its own vision of the story. There's a deadline approaching that unless altered will forever change Rosemarie's future, and though there is no glass slipper or pumpkin carriage, there is plenty of romance and intrigue as well as a "Prince Charming." Or as is the case here, three potential heroes – and what dashing young men they are! Each of the heroes is special in their own right.

Jody began this saga in her novella *The Vow*, which I would encourage you to read prior to picking up *An Uncertain Choice*. It offers some insight and background into Rosemarie's life and the heartbreak she endures four years later during the events of this novel. Normally I am not any fan of love triangles, which this novel does have a propensity towards, however thanks to its wholesome, innocent heroine, this isn't the traditional kind of love triangle. Many love triangles introduce us to a wishy-washy heroine who flip-flops

between the men vying for her attentions; this novel doesn't put Rosemarie in that situation. Rosemarie's emotions are more about realizing what the meaning of love is – what you're meant to feel, how you know what true love is – versus being undecided about the men she's faced with. She lived a sheltered life and as a result of the vow, her entire eighteen year life span was in preparation to live a life of solitude. A knowledge she had from the age of fourteen. Don't misunderstand, Rosemarie isn't some wilting flower, but she is a young woman coming of age in an era when chivalry and romance was at its best.

I have to confess, medieval stories are a hard sell in my reading habits. But having known Jody Hedlund's previous books, I had little doubt this novel was going to live up to the hype. The first person (we switch off between two perspectives though mainly stay with Rosemarie) prose is beautifully and simplistically perfect. I loved that the details of the time period didn't overwhelm the fictional story, yet there is still enough to satisfy avid historians. Rosemarie's courtship is the primary of this novel along with the danger which threatens her happy ending. Balancing the historical aspects with these characters seems to be an asset to the books likability. Some novels get lost in the history, which is all well and good, but when one is reading a fictional tale, I expect more than a textbook read. The book is both interesting with its details and doesn't shirk on its promise of being an adventurous medieval adventure.

Aside from the atmosphere and breath-catching sword fights, this is a perfect easy read for anyone wanting a period read. It sets up what I am sure will be a rewarding series and of course ends with a new threat that might throw Rosemarie into more danger or at the very least mean she'll have to rise to the occasion of becoming an even better ruler. I love Rosemarie as a heroine. She's kind (she's vehemently opposed to torture as means of punishment) and yet desires to become the ruler that her parent's would be proud of. Given what we learn of Rosemarie and her moral upbringing, she's well on her way to doing just that.

I can honestly say, this is easily one of my favorite YA reads. It officially releases March 3rd, so be sure to add it to your to-be-read.

This review originally appeared on Silver Petticoat Review.

Sincere thanks to the author and publisher (NetGalley) for a complimentary review copy of this novel.

Tito says

For me this book was just *ok*. I felt that there wasn't enough depth to the characters, and the romance between Lady Rosemarie and her love interest felt rushed and didn't seem very genuine. However I loved how in the end, Rosemarie discovers that she's a lot braver than she gives herself credit for, and I'm glad that things work out for her.

One thing that bothers me however, is the fact that this novel was written in such a juvenile manner. I mean, I've ready one other book by Jody Hedlund that was adult fiction, and it was written perfectly fine. Just because the book is ya, why does that mean the writing quality has to be so unsatisfying? Teenagers are perfectly capable of understanding complex language and ideas, so I don't know why many authors feel the need to dumb ideas and their writing down so much.

Melody says

Thank you to net galley and Zonderkidz-Books for providing a digital ARC of this novel in exchange for my

honest opinion.

Everything in this novel is very blunt and surface level. There is no opportunity for discovery, because characters reveal exactly what is on their mind, their motivations, ect.

This is not a world that feels thought out to me, or particularly real. I'm fine with it being not necessarily historically accurate. But I don't really get a sense of the larger world in this. Even when talking about the people who the book claims Rosemarie loves so much. What is life like here? What does it look like? Feel like? The poor villagers function more as bad props, and a way to make Rosemarie look better. Which is kind of insulting.

Additionally, the world just doesn't seem believable, by any rules established or created. This girl has been living basically on her own since her parents died? And she was given any even pretend semblance of power? In the middle ages? She hasn't been fully taken into the convent she was meant to join? Or shipped off to other family? There was absolutely no explanation about any of this given. Rosemarie mentioned her parents were dead, and we were expected to move on from there. I don't buy it. I wanted to read this novel because of the historical setting, and it's just not what I was hoping.

These are not necessarily three dimensional characters. I get no sense of emotional investment from them.

Because I felt no connection to the characters, the romance was lackluster. And the competition aspect of it always felt like a thrown reality show. At times I felt like I was reading about the medieval Bachelorette. Watch as contestant number 1 plans an elaborate dinner and a show. The romance has the potential to be a good, subtle slow burn. But again, everything always feels surface level. The stakes are laid out, but I'm not sure why I should care for them. They often don't feel deeply invested in their own journey.

A lot of my personal objections to the novel come down to stylistically it wasn't engaging for me. The blunt prose didn't work. The shift between POV seems unnecessary. This, of course, like almost everything, is a matter of taste.

Alyssa says

Wow! That was fantastic!!

An Uncertain Choice by Jody Hedlund is a Young Adult Medieval fiction. It is Jody's first foray into Young Adult fiction, as she normally writes Adult Historical fiction. (I highly recommend all of Jody's other novels.) An Uncertain Choice was the perfect Historical YA read. It had everything I was hoping for: Knights, Princesses, sword fights, and swoon-worthy romance. Everybody should read this book. It's the perfect book for Historical fiction fans of ALL ages. Suffice to say I am excited beyond words for Jody's next book which releases October 2015!

Rebecca says

I am not going to even give this book the dignity of one star, so no stars it is which, I know I don't have on my rating system but no stars basically means it's not worth the paper it's printed on.

Four things sum this dull, un-interesting, boring story up:

1. Lame plot

2. Lame characters
3. Lame writing
4. Super lame ending

There you have it folks. Basically this book is a complete waste of the precious little time we have on this earth and I wish I hadn't wasted mine reading it. I'm still not sure why I finished it; I guess because I still have a little of my 'hating to not finish a book' syndrome. I need to work on that.

Melanie Kilsby says

A unique coming-of-age historical tale in attempt to find true love.

I'm not one for love triangles or love quadruples for that matter. But, I liked how the circumstances forced our heiress into making a tough decision. It was indeed an interesting plot and I loved her sweet nature. Also, I admired her stance against torture!

However, after some thought, I would have loved to know more about each suitor; the wonderful Duke who cared so much for her, back stories, etc...

The book is small and could have given us more. The ending came as a shock. I'm not sure yet if I liked what all happened, or think it was at all believable, but that is besides the point.

Overall I still liked this book very much!

Jaye Knight says

I was a little leery starting An Uncertain Choice. I'd seen several not so great reviews before I started it, so I went in with rather low expectations. I think that might be one reason I enjoyed it. I almost always find myself surprised when I go in with low expectations whether it be books or movies. While the book may have been predictable in areas and perhaps a little silly and unrealistic at times, I liked it quite a bit. I enjoyed the characters, particularly Derrick and the duke. I just loved their nobility. I even liked Rosemarie, which is quite a surprise knowing my usual dislike for female protagonists. Yes, her naiveté and indecisiveness was a bit frustrating at times, she still grew on me. Aside from a few darker moments involving torture and such, this was a light, very fairytale-ish read, especially in the romance department. And who says fairy tale stories can't be a little silly and unrealistic? Once in a while, you just need fun stories like that to unwind and relax. There was definitely adventure to it as well. I devoured the last quarter of the book, almost skimming because I was so anxious to see what would happen (even if I could predict the ending). So if you're looking for a (mostly) light and fun fairytale princess-like story, then I recommend checking it out.

I received a copy of this book free from BookLook Bloggers in exchange for my honest review.

Kathy says

Loved this beautiful, gentle romance.

Odd ending... is there a sequel. Just skip the last couple pages for a perfect ending.

Content: Clean

Sarah says

Age Appropriate For: 12 and up for romance and violence

Best for Ages: 12 and 18

This review is full of spoilers. If you want to read this book without knowing the ending, don't read this.

So, I was going to wait until I was in a better mood to do this review, and then I decided that while I was feeling sarcastic and a bit grumpy and a bit silly (I don't understand how those two go together either, but sometimes they go together with me) I would go ahead and write the review. Perhaps it will come off sounding funny instead of irritated.

Before I get started, let me first say that both the main characters show two qualities that I admire. The first is that they both have faith in God. Second, the both not only strive to, but do treat each other in honor and purity even though they are very attracted to each other. I also would like to say that the author did keep me turning pages even when I didn't particularly care for the book, which is why it got three stars.

Now, let me begin on what I thought of MOST of the book. The beginning was the worst part. Could it have been anymore cheesy? One girl is about to be forced by her parents' vow to enter a life of celibacy (which, obviously is the worst fate that could befall any girl, right?). But then *gasp of surprise* someone discovers that there is a way out: if she finds true love and marries before midnight of her eighteenth birthday (seriously, I am not joking.)

So, three men compete for her hand. You will be shocked at who they are. A rich guy that flatters and gives rich gifts, a poet that brings flowers, and a tough guy who just plays hero sometimes, remains silent most of the time (what? You aren't surprised?).

The middle part of the book was rather interesting, when mysterious accidents happened, but that part didn't last long. Guess which guy she went for? (How did you know it was the hero guy? Whoever sees that coming?)

My biggest complaint really was who the bad guy turned out to be. Yes, she did succeed in horrifying me. Seriously, what is with Christian authors and making the priest into the evil guy? I wanted to throw the book away at that point.

Although this book wasn't terrible, it wasn't great either. It was far too predictable and cheesy.

I received this book from Zondervan in exchange for my honest review. I was under no obligation to write a positive review. The opinions in this review are entirely my own

Jamie says

After reading Jody Hedlund's first YA novel, An Uncertain Choice, I can say without a doubt she has sealed

the deal as an all-time favorite author. Whether it's historical fiction or young adult, you're in for a treat with one of her novels.

With dashing knights, dances, mysteries and romance, this book was not only entertaining for me, but one I'd happily give and recommend to young adults. It's enjoyable and refreshing, as well as a voice and story that's needed in the YA genre. Not only did the story keep your attention from the first page, Hedlund effortlessly weaved important lessons throughout the pages.

Lessons about discovering who you are and what courage you might not know you have. Plus lessons in love (which teens need today so desperately no?), like not settling, but being with someone who brings out their gifts, passions and desires in life. Have I mentioned that's especially important for the YA audience today? If you can't be yourself, than trust that God has something far better.

"He was kind, but didn't treat me like I was fragile or breakable. Rather he seemed to push me to be better, to do more, and to rise higher."

Sometimes you just need a touch of fairytale and this one fits the bill perfectly. Plus after the final page, I look forward to what is next!

What's one of your favorite fairy tales?

(With thanks to Zondervan for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest opinion)

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