



A Loyal Heart

Jody Hedlund

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He's taken her as his prisoner. But she's holding his heart captive. In gaining their freedom, will they lose what matters most?

When Lady Olivia's castle is besieged, she and her sister are taken captive and held for ransom by her father's enemy, Lord Pitt. Loyalty to family means everything to Olivia. She'll save her sister at any cost and do whatever her father asks—even if that means obeying his order to steal a sacred relic from her captor.

As Lord Pitt's commander, Sir Aldric is in charge of the beautiful but feisty new prisoner. He has his hands full attempting to keep Lady Olivia out of trouble. When Lord Pitt throws her in the dungeon and threatens to hang her for stealing, Aldric conceives a plot to save Olivia's life—betrothal to him.

Can Olivia give up the prestigious match her father has arranged with a wealthy marquess in order to marry a lowly knight like Aldric? And can Aldric move beyond his past mistakes to embrace love again? When loyalties are tested, they're thrust into danger that could cost them their love and their lives.

A Loyal Heart Details

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From Reader Review A Loyal Heart for online ebook

Micaiah Saldaña says

This was a wonderful addition to Jody Hedlund's medieval YA series! This is one of my favorites out of the whole series. The plot was clever, the characters spot-on, and the setting of knights and castles as rich and vivid as ever. This is a fun weekend read that I would suggest to any fans of historical romance. =)

Brittany says

This story is absolutely fantastic! I also just adore the breathtaking cover. A Loyal Heart is the fourth book in the An Uncertain Choice series, however, it can be read as a stand alone novel.

The two main characters, Olivia and Aldric, are up there with some of my favorites of all time. They are both so brave and valiant. Aldric reveals his true and honorable nature in the way he treats Lady Olivia. He also demands that the other knights behave respectfully toward the two sisters, who are their prisoners. Olivia is strong and kind. She puts others before herself in almost everything, especially her sister Isabelle.

I enjoyed the wonderful romantic tension that built throughout the story. Olivia and Aldric definitely belonged together. Their interactions with each other kept me riveted to the page. A Loyal Heart was a thrilling medieval tale, packed with romance and danger! I loved it from start to finish.

I received a complimentary copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

You can read this review on my blog:
<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

MJSH says

Ah. Jody Hedlund. Need I say more?

I actually have not read the other three books in this series but did not feel I missed out on anything. Some of the characters from the previous books make cameo appearances and I will absolutely have to go back to read their stories, but this book works well as a stand-alone. It is an incredible journey through 1392 as knights and lords wage battles for control of land, wealth, and allegiance to the king of England. Although I'm not a huge fan of first person narrative, it was executed incredibly well in this book as the narrative shifts from Sir Aldric to Lady Olivia. The book is so well-written with:

- 1) lyrical and musical writing that captivates and engages from page one
 - 2) an action-packed and fast-paced plot
 - 3) delicious, humorous, and sharply witty dialogue
 - 4) tenderly romantic and heart-seizing moments
 - 5) beautiful, lovable, and memorable characters who grow and mature throughout the book
 - 6) a steady undercurrent of faith and prayer
 - 7) an amazing description of landscape and daily life in 1392 that brings the entire backdrop to vivid clarity.
- Anyone who enjoys a well-written, satisfying historical romance will love this book.

Sir Aldric begins the story by saying "but these things were superficial. It a woman was attracted to me for such qualities, then she was shallow, and I didn't want a shallow relationship. Actually, I didn't want any kind of relationship. Not shallow. Not deep. Not any." This quote is the epitome of Sir Aldric. He is a strong and skilled knight with a broken past and heavy burdens that weigh down his heart and soul. He is loyal, faithful, trustworthy, and noble though he wasn't always that way. He is sent in to capture Lady Olivia and her sister Lady Isabelle because of their father's infractions against the king.

Lady Olivia is strong, unconventional, bold, determined, proud, and stubborn yet loyal to a fault and inevitably a woman at heart with tender feelings. As their relationship grows, she admits "I realized then, this connection with him would be difficult to cut loose, that his presence was weaving into the tapestry of my life, and that I had no wish to untangle the woven strands any more than I wished to release his hold on my hand." Wow, such poetic musings!

Once I started this book, I could not put it down. Twists and turns in the plot kept the story moving quickly and yet I didn't want the story to end! Will there be another book in the series? And on which knight and noblewoman will the next book spotlight? I must go back to read the previous three stories, especially the one about Sir Aldric's brother Sir Bennet and his wife Lady Sabine (For Love and Honor).

I was given a copy of this book from the author/publisher and also through Celebrate Lit Tour. I was not required to write a favorable review. All comments and opinions are solely my own.

Danielle says

Jody Hedlund OWNS Historical Romance for me! This whole series has been breathtaking and the characters are ones who are timeless. Aldric and Olivia are characters brought together in unusual circumstances but find that love, true love is worth fighting for..regardless of station. Thank you Mrs. Hedlund for writing and sharing your gift with all.

Beth says

A Loyal Heart is the fourth (and final?) book in Jody Hedlund's medieval young adult series, and out of the bunch, it is also my favorite. I found the plot to be the most realistic and the characters to be the most relatable. Olivia's character arc drew me in. She is a strong character, both physically and mentally, but it never seemed out of context for the time – as in, she isn't suddenly stronger and faster than knights who were larger and more trained than she was. She has a lot of pride, but not too much to come across as aggravating or unrealistic. She may believe a little too long in someone she shouldn't have but, under certain circumstances, I think many have believe something of someone because the alternative is just too heartbreaking.

I also like that the reader gets to experience the story from the point of view of both characters. This kept this story suspenseful, but also allowed for getting to know both of them throughout the course of the story. Aldric was a somewhat shadowy, tragic figure in the previous book, so it was good to learn more about him. Both Olivia and Aldric show tremendous loyalty to both family and brothers-in-arms, even at great personal cost, and I admired that about them.

This book is very much a romance, but I found it all to be sweet and with good boundaries for younger readers. Though it's never a surprise to me when the characters realize they're in love, it's fun getting to that point with them. In addition, a clear faith element is woven in nicely throughout the story. Both characters experience growth and change as individuals, which is always refreshing.

Overall, this is a winsome, charming story, with both romance and action to keep the pages turning.

I received an advanced complimentary electronic copy of this novel, which I chose to review. This review is my honest opinion.

Rachael says

I own all of this authors YA books in PB, but THIS one really stands out to me as a favorite! I read this in one sitting and so enjoyed it. It reminds me of a movie that tries to prove chivalry isn't dead. The men in the book treat women with respect no matter what the circumstances. The main female lead is strong, and I really liked her character and personality!

Things like morals, chaperones, proper actions were all a terrific part of this YA read. My daughter isn't quite old enough to enjoy this read, but I so look forward to the day when I will have this series...and especially this book...for her to read.

The story itself is so compelling. The characters are phenomenally done in first person which is terrific. Faith, love and hope are all parts of this read bringing the reader a very well done story. I can't wait to purchase this in paperback to add to my forever shelves.

I received this book from the author. All opinions are my own.

Amy says

A Loyal Heart is the fourth installment from Jody Hedlund's series, An Uncertain Choice. I have enjoyed this series, but this one is by far my favorite to date. This is a young adult historical romance that should not be missed! It is a delightful page turner, full of intrigue, adventure and action. I was captivated with the story throughout.

I give A Loyal Heart 5 plus stars and I highly recommend it. Well done, Jody Hedlund, we done!

I received this book from the author but was not required to write a review. This review is 100% my own honest opinion.

Angela says

swoon... OK I am a sucker for the "I hate you but then I fell in love with you" trope... it makes for some great banter and fun and I loved this! Head over to my channel for a full video review!

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

After reading the book previous to this one in the series – For Love and Honor – I was drawn to Aldric (Sir Bennet's brother) and was hoping that someday Jody Hedlund would give us his story. And what a fabulous story it is!

Olivia and Aldric are fabulously drawn characters, and the alternating first person POV between them allows us to know them more personally over the course of the story. Aldric has made many mistakes (while you don't have to read For Love and Honor before this one, it really does help to establish his character) but he is trying to learn from them and not be defined by them. Despite his past flaws, he is now a man of integrity (always has been, when it counts) and the care he takes with Olivia and Isabelle warms the heart. For her own part, Olivia is a strong heroine with a fierce spirit (in the best way) and loyal to a fault. She feels deeply for those she cares about, and while her loyalty is sometimes misplaced it's her strength of heart which best serves her.

The romance in A Loyal Heart is sweet and innocent, but not without its share of sizzle! The passion, however, is tempered with respect – for God and for each other – and their electric chemistry is made all the better for it. So are their swoonilicious kisses and a bath scene that retains its honorability while also causing readers to break out their swooning fans.

Bottom Line: A Loyal Heart continues Hedlund's top-notch YA series with fierce adventure, tender romance and a meaningful message. Through the riveting story, even from the medieval setting, it tackles issues that YA readers face in today's world and its message of loyalty, purity and right vs. wrong is organic to the story. All the characters in the 'An Uncertain Choice' series are fantastic and vividly-drawn – and Aldric and Olivia are no exceptions. Is it too much to hope for more books in the series? Isabelle and Charlie both need their own stories, after all.

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book)

first seen at Reading Is My SuperPower

Lori says

A wonderful tale of knights, castles and action adventure all rolled into one.

Im a huge fan of Jodys! I especially love her historical fiction and my favorite was Newton and Polly. Luther and Katharina came in second.

I wasn't sure that I would like something like this. However; I was pleasantly surprised by the awesome characters!

I wasn't happy that Olivia got sold into a marriage that she didn't really want.

Greed is like jealousy. It's evil and can get in the way of things.

I was definitely proud of Aldric.

He is the true hero of this tale.

Join me in reading this tale of knights, and castles and adventure all rolled into one by one fabulous author.

I received this book for free. All opinions are my own
Thank you Celebrate Lit

Hannah Schuck says

Again Jody Hedlund has captured me

How can she come up with books this good!? This fifth book in her series "An Uncertain Choice" is as captivating as the first four! Her way of writing is unique! The characters start off knowing they shouldn't or can't love each other, then come to find out they do in devastating situations where one or the other is about to die! This book (like the first four) made me not want to stop reading until I finished it!

Lady Olivia : Believes Loyalty to her family is important because her father taught her so. So on a quest to be loyal to her father she must go against her instincts of honor and disobey a man she is coming to love. But once she realizes that she could be putting him or her sister in danger Olivia must decide what is most important. Should she be loyal to family or love?

Sir Aldric : Is struggling with past decisions. After harming his former wife and causing her to die Aldric beliefs love is behind him and does not wish to try again. And dealing with Olivia is a challenge, especially when she is determined to escape. Aldric knows her father sent Olivia after something, but what? And can he figure it out in enough time to save her?

As always for Jody Hedlund this story ended suspensefully! I enjoyed it very much and now I want to re-read the entire series!! A very, very good book! I would suggest to any young Christian girl who loves romance! It is a beautiful story and a great read! It does get a little intimate at times but not so much it's horrifying.

Comment if you want to hear my deepest feelings about the book. Cause well.....THIS JUST DOESN'T EXPLAIN HOW GOOD IT IS!!

Nicki Chapelway says

So... where to even begin? Honestly I loved this book so much. I loved this whole series, really, and I was so sad to think that the last book would have been the last in the series. So of course I asked for another one. I wasn't sure anything would come of it, but then she DID IT! Jody Hedlund wrote another. I was ecstatic. I sort of felt like she wrote this book for me even though she said she had multiple people asking for another book*

Now without further ado... let's drool at that cover for the next century because it's just GORGEOUS!

And the story inside is just as good.

First things first, Sir Aldric is Sir Bennet's brother, which can I just say any member of that family is welcome here. I thought Bennet would be a little bit boring (but he completely proved me wrong in For Love and Honor) and so I was super excited when I learned that this would be about his brother. I couldn't remember exactly what happened to Aldric in the last book, but Hedlund quickly cleared that up and I could

thoroughly enjoy him as a character. Colin is still my favorite hero, but these guys keep threatening the walls of my heart constructed specifically for him.

Olivia is an awesome character. She's feisty and relentless and lives up to her red hair. But she's also soft and caring. And smart. And man, she and Sabine are duking it out as to who should be my favorite heroine in this series.

What's not to like about knights and castles and sieges and... (probably not torture, though it's in there, too) but did I mention knights and castles and sieges and battles and *flails* I can't even!

This book can be read as a stand alone, though I wouldn't recommend it because the other books are just way too awesome to miss out on.

On a whole, five out of five stars. I totally recommend this book (seriously, go read it) and if you haven't read the other books in this series then read them, too! (I mean it)

*I still want another book even after this one- you're not off the hook, Hedlund

I received a free copy of this book from the author, all opinions, however, are my own.

Kara says

When I found out there was a Book 4 to this series, I knew I HAD to get a copy! The cover is so amazing and the story captivated me from the beginning. I truly loved Olivia's heart and this is her journey with Aldric. It was a pleasure to read how they go from enemies to respecting one another, to becoming friends and protecting one another to falling in love. This one is probably my favorite book of the series although I have enjoyed each of them.

Cecil was my favorite character, loved how he mentored and trained Olivia to be a warrior. My heart filled with disappointment when instead of rescuing her and Isabel from Aldric, that instead he gives her a note from her father with a specific mission.

And I was also amazed that in this book, Lord Pitt is actually one of the good guys after what he did in Book 3! And Olivia's father is questionable throughout when he's supposed to be the good guy! Excellent writing right there.

The bath scene was one of my favorite moments, very innocent and very tangible!

Aldric falls from grace in a huge way, but he also comes back from all of that and becomes such an honorable man....he's a great hero and one that is perfectly suited for Olivia.

I do hope the author writes more books to this series, it has won my heart over with the adventure, romance, danger, and loyalty vividly described in each chapter.

I was given a complimentary copy of this ebook from the author, but was not required to write a review. The thoughts and comments are my own.

Megan says

“A Loyal Heart” by Jody Hedlund is a book I could not put down! This is the fourth book in the “An Uncertain Choice” series. I have read and loved all of the books in this series, but one can definitely read this book as a standalone. This book may just be my favorite one out of the series!

What makes this book so great? Well first of all, it includes knights and a kick-butt heroine during the medieval time period! Ms. Hedlund has awesome characters that young and old alike can relate to. Lady Olivia, our heroine, is a warrior; isn’t afraid to fight; and is feisty, stubborn and proud. Olivia grew up practicing sword drills and fighting maneuvers instead of sitting around doing needlework. She is no damsel in distress. While our hero is imprisoned, Olivia must risk her life to save those she loves. I love that Olivia struggles with true fear when faced with possibly being executed. In her fear, she turns to Christ and prays more than she ever has. She also struggles with trying to earn her father’s approval and learning about seeking God’s approval first and foremost.

Our hero, Sir Aldric, is noble, chivalrous and kind. I think many readers will find him swoon-worthy. I love how he tries to be above reproach physically and even has a chaperone with himself and Olivia in certain situations where they might be tempted. Sir Aldric and Lady Olivia have some great bantering scenes. I especially like the scene where the two banter while dancing, reminding me a lot of the famous “Pride and Prejudice” dancing scene.

This is a book I’d feel comfortable giving to a pre-teen or teen. It has action, adventure, romance and great values. Ms. Hedlund deals with the issue of loyalty, and how we need to be loyal to God and His ways first, instead of just trying to please men. Our characters also learn about becoming stronger through their failures and that one’s past doesn’t define them. I highly recommend this book!

Content: This is a clean read with a PG rating for some minor content. Some examples of the content are: a man has a past of drinking and gambling; someone has tried to commit suicide in their past, they also drank and gambled; there’s a situation where a man is taking a bath and a woman unknowingly enters the room, when she realizes he’s there she doesn’t see anything and nothing improper happens; characters drink ale with a meal; some violence; a character is asked if they’ve been defiled by the enemy; some torture.

Rating: I give this book 5 stars!

Genre: Christian fiction; Historical fiction; Romance; Young Adult; Medieval

I want to thank Jody Hedlund, Celebrate Lit and Northern Lights for the complimentary copy of this book for review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I express in this review are my own. This is in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s CFR 16, Part 255.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

Love These Characters!

I love this series. Each book can stand alone but I was happy to see characters from previous books make an appearance. I loved the characters this story. So much. Honorable, kind, strong. The best kind of heroes.
