



Betrayal

Michele Kallio

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Betrayal is the story of two women separated by thousands of miles and nearly five centuries.

Modern day Lydia Hamilton seems to lead an idyllic life with her physician boyfriend, that is, until she begins to have a recurring dream that haunts even her waking hours. The dream takes Lydia to the Court of Henry the Eighth. In her dream Lydia finds herself in the body of Elisabeth Beeton, lady's maid to Anne Boleyn. Believing her dreams to be only nightmares, Lydia ignores them as long as she can. But, when a mysterious package arrives in mail Lydia is caught up in the quest to uncover the truth behind Elisabeth's betrayal.

Betrayal Details

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Author : Michele Kallio

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From Reader Review Betrayal for online ebook

Candace says

Michele Kallio's *Betrayal* is a haunting novel based both in present day New Brunswick and in Sixteenth Century England. Modern day Lydia is an intelligent, kind, and beautiful woman that leads a great life with her Physician boyfriend. Raised by her cold father, Lydia never knew her mother or her mother's family. After her father's untimely death Lydia begins having nightmares that seem all too realistic. In her dreams, Lydia finds herself in the body of Elisabeth, a lady's maid to Lady Anne Boleyn. Lady Anne happens to be the mistress (and later wife) of King Henry VIII. Believing her dreams to be only nightmares, Lydia ignores them for as long as she can. However, Lydia soon starts experiencing waking dreams and begins having strange sensations of *deja vu*. The more she finds herself in Elisabeth's world the more Lydia realizes that there are more to her dreams than meet the eye. Could they be trying to tell her something about her past or is Lydia going insane?

I thoroughly enjoyed reading every bit of Michele Kallio's *Betrayal*. Kallio did a terrific job in creating not one, but two different worlds. Lydia's life in modern day New Brunswick is very realistic. Kallio painted her setting in a way that made it very easy to imagine. I could visualize the restaurants, buildings, and scenery described. Reading about Lydia's adventures in Bar Harbor made me want to research the town. (It is real and looks just as beautiful as Kallio described!) It was the infusion of little details (like those mentioned above) that made *Betrayal* feel complete. I was especially fond of the historical aspects of the novel. Kallio's knowledge of sixteenth century England was definitely noticed and appreciated. Everything was well researched, from the various Sixteenth Century social stations and popular style, to religion and politics.

Betrayal opened my eyes to a whole new world of dreams and the meanings behind them. In the book, Lydia first starts seeing a Psychologist specializing in dreams. After hearing her speak on a tape recorder about her dreams, the Dr. feels that they are more than typical nightmares. Fearing that they are occurring because of a repressed memory, the Psychologist requests to hypnotize Lydia. Lydia must decide if she really wants to know more about her past and if she is ready to deal with the consequences of what remains hidden.

Betrayal easily switches between the lives of Lydia and Elisabeth. I was surprised at how flawlessly each new chapter changed gears. While reading about Elisabeth I found myself speculating on what would happen next with Lydia. Furthermore, while reading about what Lydia was going through made me think about Elisabeth and her world. As the book progressed, the story of the two women seemed to converge. I feel that Kallio did a terrific job in meshing her two story lines together.

Michele Kallio has a gem in her novel, *Betrayal*. Embedded in it you will find a great deal of history, romance, mystery, and suspense. I recommend *Betrayal* to anyone looking for a great read! Good luck putting it down!

Lindsay says

I have waffled back and forth about how to rate this book, and I really want to explain well why I have rated it only 2 stars.

I'll start with what I enjoyed about the book. Although the idea of reincarnation is not new, Michele Kallio offers a fresh take on it in showing all of the realistic side-effects that memory of past lives might cause. Our

main character, Lydia, is having nightmares. When they begin to leak into her waking hours, it begins to cause problems not only with her own mental well being, but also her relationship with her boyfriend. Lydia is frightened, but she is also drawn to her dreams, desperate to know the reason behind them. The premise to this book is very good. There is a sturdy base for something amazing, but it never really came forward for me. There were whole scenes that could have, should have?, been cut straight out, with no bearing on the plot or character development. I understand that the author may have wanted to share local tourism information with the reader, or historical background, but it made the whole plot feel drawn out. I ended up feeling like I had learned more about the author herself, than the characters. The story swings back and forth between past and present. I admit, I looked forward to the past scenes, because they were well written and I was excited to see where the story was going. The present scenes, however, felt frustrated. The chemistry between the characters was confusing, and I openly detested a few of them. This book has the potential to be amazing, with a little bit of editing. I wish Michele Kallio all the best in her future endeavors. I'm sure she will be something great!

A copy of this book was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Jodi says

When I had finished the stack of galley's I was reviewing I was able to return my attention to Michele's novel *Betrayal* and was instantly captivated all over again. Michele skillfully combines current day with dream sequences relating to life in the 1500s. The characters are well portrayed and the storyline is believable.

The lead character Lydia Hamilton seems to have an idyllic life working and living with her boyfriend Dr. Dan Taylor that is until she begins to have a recurring dream that haunts even her waking hours. The dreams take Lydia to the 1500s and into the court of King Henry VIII. Dan doesn't understand how tormented Lydia is by the dream which is now causing a rift to develop between the couple. He insists Lydia seek the help of Dr. Alan Stokes a psychologist and specialist in dream interpretation. With Alan's help Lydia is able to recall more details of her dreams bringing to light names and locations that the dream plays out.

Lydia is contacted by her estranged family by whom she learns of her mother's death, a mother she had thought dead since she was a child. Lydia is drawn to England to the home of her family in the hope that she will be able to bring sense to her dreams and put an end to them once and for all.

Michele Kallio, retired medical office manager, former teacher and librarian draws her reader in and keeps their attention with her talented writing. She has combined mystery and proven historical facts into an amazing read that I very much recommend. Pick it up, make a cup of tea and read the book. You will be glad you did.

Note: I won this book on Goodreads.

Sarah u says

I'm pulling this review as I have the revised edition to read now.

Kai Markanday says

DISCLAIMER: I received this book through Goodreads First Reads

WARNING: some spoilers

The book follows our protagonist Lydia (Olivia) Hamilton, who although quite flawed and personally I found her to be annoying, was a well developed and realistic character. Her relationship with Dan frustrated me, as I found his reactions to her nightmares to be inconsistent and confusing; considering his profession is a doctor his actions did not make sense, especially at the beginning. This is probably one of the reasons I liked the ending of the book. As I said, despite finding quite a few of the characters annoying and perhaps a bit plain, they were well written; a lot of minor characters were introduced and Kallio did this in an interesting way. Instead of falling into the trap of introducing new characters by simply describing them, she did it by revealing information throughout to help develop a mental image instead of dictating to the reader. Kallio also has a good way with words with interesting turns of phrases; I cannot find the exact quote of my favourite line but to paraphrase "I was heading for the stars, I just hope I wasn't falling into a black hole". The dialogue again was well written and believable; the book switched between two time periods and the dialogue was distinctive between the two, which made the story flow easier. Kallio obviously did a lot of research as the parts set in Tudor times were realistic, and as a history geek who grew up in England being taught this since she was 7, I would be able to spot most flaws. The way the story came together as the reader worked out the connection between the two people in the two time periods were exciting and well done; I loved the little hints like Lydia's cat's name. Overall a good read, definitely worth a read at least once.

Claire Ridgway says

A wonderful debut!

I was recommended this novel by a friend and I'm so glad that I listened to her as the description on Amazon just does not do the book justice.

The blurb on Amazon says:

"Lydia Hamilton was a modern woman, happily in love and living in Canada . . . until the nightmares. Following the death of her father, Lydia begins dreaming of places and people she doesn't know. When she closes her eyes, she sees a bloodied, severed head. The images are confusing and unclear, but she knows one thing for sure: something bad happened a long time ago. And why only now have the dreams begun?"

What it does not say is that it is actually two stories in one, told in parallel. We have the story of the modern day Lydia trying to cope with her nightmares and the impact they're having on her life, and then we have the story of Elisabeth, a sixteenth century woman living in Cardinal Wolsey's household whose life changes when she meets Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. The two worlds collide in Lydia's dreams and when Lydia begins having 'waking dreams', which start affecting her relationship with her physician boyfriend, Dan, she realises that she needs help to get to the bottom of what's going on. Dan persuades her to see Dr Alan Stokes, a psychologist and dream specialist who also has experience in regression hypnosis. Will he be able to help Lydia understand why she's reliving Elisabeth's life and what the horrific image of the severed head is all

about?

The book is a real page turner and has all of my favourite ingredients: history, intrigue, secrets, love, passion, betrayal and mystery. Although chapters were told by different characters, I didn't find it at all confusing and Kallio made me identify with each of the characters. I didn't like her portrayal of Jane Boleyn, George Boleyn's wife, but that's just me. All of the characters were believable and I enjoyed the contrast between the two historical periods and the lives of the two women. The story was drawn together beautifully at the end, with all the different threads and the reasoning behind Lydia's dreams. I hope that Kallio will produce more novels as this was an excellent debut.

Christoph Fischer says

“Betrayal” by Michele Kallio is a clever blend of historical fiction and fantasy that starts out in contemporary Canada. Lydia experiences some haunting dreams that take her back to Tudor England. She is fighting the disturbance to her life and trying to figure out the meaning of those dreams while in her dreams / the past she witnesses some historic moments and discovers a secret – which may or may not be true.

In the past story line we connect with Elisabeth Benton, servant to Queen Anne Boleyn and involved with Anne’s brother George. Set in this most intriguing time of British History, the times of the unpredictable Henry VIII, drama and suspense come almost on their own, but Kallio has chosen a good story line.

The insertion of historic speculation and possibilities – to me – bring a special quality to this fast paced historical thriller. The parallel stories of the past and the present make for a refreshing and compelling read that never bores. Then there is the question of romance – Lydia is married to a very handsome man but there is also some attraction to someone else.

Well written and structured and sealed with a great ending this is a rewarding read.

Michele Kallio says

Instead of reviewing the book myself I would like to quote Kate Mullen in her review of Betrayal as found on www.Amazon.co.uk

The author demonstrates a lively knowledge of her subject. With the story set on two continents and two time scales, she shows a versatility and skillful story telling which is refreshingly rare in a new author. If you like Barbara Erskine and Kate Mosse, you will enjoy this book.

Two lives separated by thousands of miles and four centuries finally come together to produce an ending that is absorbing and surprising. This is an unusual story, well written and shedding new light on the lives of Anne and George Boleyn.

Stephanie says

When you read a story this good, you always wonder if the next book will compare. Lydia a modern day woman who lives in Canada with her boyfriend begins to experience dreams after her father’s death. Dreams of another time, place, and about a woman whom she soon discovers her name, Elisabeth Beeton, a servant of Anne Boleyn during the time of King Henry VIII in sixteenth century England.

Lydia desperately wants to know why she is having these dreams and what they mean. Meanwhile her mother's (who passed away) family who lives in England has been searching for her and makes contact. After receiving her mother's journal from her aunt and uncle in England, Lydia comes to realize this might be the key to solve why she is having these dreams. While her relationship with her boyfriend hangs in the balance she goes to England to solve this mystery and to unite with her mother's family.

The premise for this story is fascinating and the transition between present-day and the sixteenth century is masterfully done. The character building is excellent and the story leading up to Anne Boleyn execution is so believable, one might actually think these events could have happen this way. I highly recommend this novel to all who loves historical fiction with a contemporary flare.

Stephanie
Layered Pages

www.layeredpages.blogspot.com

Karen Aminadra says

Carefully Written - Skilfully Crafted

Betrayal is a nice long book and rightfully so. Michele has given plenty for a reader to get their teeth into. Betrayal is so carefully written and skilfully crafted that it will go down in my memory as one of the best books I have ever read.

Michele has a great way of making you feel as though you are feeling intuitively about her characters. Usually a writer drops clues or breadcrumbs to follow, and we build up a picture of the character, however, Michele connected with me intuitively and I thoroughly enjoyed that experience. For me that was a first and it was fascinating. Her characterisations are truly wonderful, there are plenty of them to love, and there are those you also want to slap!

This is probably the first book from a Canadian that I have read. I have learnt so much just from this one book. Although I still cannot get my head round the Maine accent. It makes me laugh, I need to go there and hear it first hand I think.

Michele clearly has done her research too. She is fully acquainted with the history within her novel, and it seems the personality traits of the people she has included in there too. Another thing I personally loved is that Michele also knows England. It would be too easy to gloss over that and generalise, but as a Brit I appreciate her attention to detail, it makes the places she writes about come to life.

From the beginning, the heroine is dealing with a rather delicate and nasty problem, and it was not long before I was engaged enough and interested enough to want to find out more.

The boyfriend had me against him at the beginning, he was a little too sneaky! Even though I could not put my finger on it or explain it at all, I was left with a feeling of dislike and distrust of him. I wanted to read on and see if my 'intuition' about him was right.

I love the changes through time, they are handled very well, and I connected instantly with both worlds as Michele transported me from one century to another, and there was no shell-shock from being transported through time either. Very well handled indeed.

The feeling of foreboding and danger for Elisabeth grew steadily with each page in the past so that the book turned out to be a real page-turner.

My curiosity about Lydia's dreams grew as they also grew in intensity in the book. My suspicions and brow furrowed more deeply over Dan's reactions. I was as curious about him as Alan Stokes was!

I actually found myself thinking about poor Lydia from time to time during the day while I was working and could not wait for my day to end so that I could curl up and read it!

The ending is lovely, it is a great and satisfying conclusion, and brings together of all the threads that Michele has woven into her story.

There is however, one question still left unanswered, but as I have discovered Michele is writing a sequel so I am sure all will be revealed then.

Irene says

I received this book free with the understanding that I would review the book.

This book is the sort of novel that makes its way onto the best-seller list. It is a historical novel set partially in contemporary Canada and partially in the court of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. This story contains something for many readers: romance, a mystery, political intrigue and historical detail. It appears to be well researched, offering many details not demanded by the unfolding plot.

The book opens with Lydia awaking from a terrible recurring nightmare. A young girl cowers in a small, dark stone room, frightened and confused. Angry men enter and drag her to the door. A spinning light resolves itself into the bloody severed head of a woman who asks "Why?". Before long, this nightmare begins to haunt Lydia's waking hours with visions that appear in the reflective glass of windows, the soap bubbles of the dish water and any other quiet surface. Lydia and Dan, her live-in boyfriend, are frightened to distraction by these traumatizing images and are driven to uncover their source. Dan convinces Lydia to see a psychologist who specializes in dreams and hypnosis, something that Lydia fears as much as the dreams themselves. But, Allen soon wins Lydia's trust with his sincere interest and reassuring presence.

Chapters about Lydia are alternated with those set in the early 16th century, the setting of the nightmares. Elizabeth, the cowering girl of the nightmare, is a lady's maid to Anne Boleyn. Taken into her service shortly prior to her marriage to King Henry VIII and continuing in that position through her execution, Elizabeth has inside knowledge of court intrigue. Unusually literate for a poor girl at this time, Elizabeth chronicles Anne's rise to the throne and subsequent fall from favor, a drama in which she is an unwitting player.

Despite its promising plot line, I would only consider this a mediocre read. There were a few issues that hampered my full enjoyment of the read, nothing that a good editor could have easily remedied.

The book is rather long at nearly 500 pages. Although I am not opposed to longer books, this story contained much that seemed extraneous to the story and resulted in my waning interest. Early into the story, Dan and Lydia take a weekend trip to New England where they enjoy a folk music festival. During this period, we are given significant information on adopting Grey Hounds, spend time with another vacationing couple who never reappear in the book, and acquire interesting information on Celtic folk instruments. Later in the book, a colleague puts Lydia into contact with a dream therapist who she met at a convention. Despite a decent number of pages dedicated to this dream therapist, Lydia never meets with her, nor does she follow the

advice the therapist gives over the phone. Eliminating these and other similar passages that neither advance the story nor shed new light into the characters would help the story to move more quickly and would have kept my interest more engaged.

I was also frustrated by story lines that were introduced, but were not resolved. The most significant example of such a line was the story of Lydia's father and mother. We learn that, although Lydia had been told by her father that her mother died when she was very young, in fact, he had stolen her from her mother, moved them from England to Canada and changed their names to prevent his wife from locating them. This discovery, which Lydia only makes months prior to the start of the novel, plagues at Lydia through the story. But, despite numerous hints, we never learn why the father would take these extreme steps to prevent the mother and child from ever being together.

The contemporary characters also irritated me. Maybe this was intended, but I never understood their erratic behavior and therefore, they never became "real" for me. As the book opens, Dan is so concerned about these nightmares that he is willing to trick Lydia into seeing a professional, even at the risk of destroying their relationship. But, as soon as Lydia agrees, he becomes jealous of the therapist. He gently encourages Lydia to tell him of the content of her dreams, but immediately grows angry and accusatory when she starts. Lydia likewise reacts in ways that seem disproportionate to the situation. Every waking image of the girl of her dreams, causes Lydia to collapse into hysterics. She slams from one emotional extreme to another with the slightest provocation. Character after character sinks to the floor sobbing, vomits with anguish, runs from rooms, and gets tangled in sweaty covers. Allen, the young psychologist and university professor, is available to Lydia wherever and whenever she calls, canceling classes at the drop of a hat or ring of the phone. The owner of the bed & breakfast in New England offers them the best suit in the place at half price on their busiest week as well as prime concert tickets for free for no explicable reason. When I do not find the behaviors of characters credible, I tend not to experience the characters as real.

There were small details that simply did not fit in certain scenes. Allen visits Lydia at her office and she is described as cradling the phone as she spoke to him. Dan uses a break in his work scheduled caused by a patient being delayed in X-ray to call England, but when he can't get the phone call to go through, he pours himself a drink and stretches out in front of the fire suddenly transported from the hospital to his house. Dan throws up from self-loathing in the bedroom; although he cleans up, Lydia waits for him to come out so they can make love before falling asleep, the mess disappeared in the morning. The female owner of the bed & breakfast is described as possessing such a heavy accent that Lydia has difficulty understanding her, but it is never conveyed in the dialogue.

Finally, the writing is far from polished. In the contemporary chapters, the dialogue felt wooden, unnatural. Descriptive words often conjured a feel other than warranted by the scene (e.g. a character reaching across a table top to touch another's hand is described as the hand "snaking"). Physical details were repeated unnecessarily: cornflower, cobalt, azure blue eyes, red gold curls, locks, strands, tanned skin repeatedly contrasting with white collars, teeth and most anything else. When Dan "snakes" his arm around Lydia's waist, why do we need to read that it is 22 inches?

I am a picky reader, demanding more of a book than I could ever produce myself. The writing of this review should make it more than evident that I am a poor writer. I have been fortunate enough to have been allowed to read literary masters and I fear they may have ruined me. Maybe I simply want every writer to be another Steinbeck. I suspect that most readers will not find my complaints of much consequence and will truly enjoy this story of intrigue, romance and mystery.

Judy says

Title: Betrayal

Author: Michele Kallio

Publisher: iUniverse, Bloomington IN 47403

Genre: Historical Fiction

I won this book by entering a contest on Goodreads. I think the title Betrayal is what caught my attention. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I was surprised.

Betrayal is a story of two women in two different time periods, who seem to have a connection. Lydia Hamilton is a present day medical office manager, living with her boyfriend, Dr. Dan Taylor. The story opens with Lydia awakening from a particularly frightening nightmare. As the story progresses you see her boyfriend is not at all sympathetic that she is experiencing these night mares. I found him to be self centered and generally unlikable. Like most doctors I suppose.

As Lydia explores her nightmares, with Dr. Alan Stokes, a psychologist who specializes in dream interpretation, she goes deeper and deeper into the meaning of these nightmares. A Christmas package from an unknown aunt and uncle in England, presumes to contain a diary that belonged to Lydia's deceased mother. On further inspection, she finds the diary was written by someone else entirely and she makes plans to travel to Morley-Cross in England to meet her aunt and uncle and find out more about the author of the diary.

The author moves us from the current century to the 16th century and the life of Elisabeth Beeton, a lady maid to Lady Anne Boleyn, later Queen Anne, and wife of Henry the VII. We get a glimpse of the everyday day to day happenings in the manors and courts of the 16th century. Ms. Kallio paints a wonderful picture of life in that time. I really felt like I was there. I could almost feel the cold drafty English manor houses and smell the roses in the gardens and the stench of the outbuildings.

I found the story believable, but I did not like the ending. The mystery was solved I guess, but it left me just a bit disappointed. Indeed this is a story of betrayal on many levels. Betrayal seemed to abound in the 16th century royal courts and well in the present day. I have recently become a fan of historical fiction and this novel fits that genre.

Amy says

Awesome is what I say! I have never felt so close to a character before! You feel like you travel right there beside her. A definite must read!

Sarah u says

Fans of the reign of Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn, don't really struggle to find novels to read which are set in this time. There are so many to choose from told from various points of view; Anne, her

ladies, her contemporaries, and so on. Recently there has also been a few time-slip novels appear on the market, *Betrayal* by Michele Kallio being one of them.

NOTE: This review is for the 2013 rewrite of *Betrayal*, which has several different plotlines to its predecessor.

Betrayal begins as a modern day love story with a twist- Lydia loves and lives with Dan, yet she is haunted by strange dreams which put unbelievable strain on her relationship. When these dreams creep into her waking life her partner asks her to see a psychiatrist- enter Dr Alan Stokes, an expert in this field. Dan becomes increasingly jealous as Lydia and Dan try to figure out why Lydia is having these unusual experiences- and not without good reason.

At the same time we are introduced to Elisabeth Beeton, a female scribe in the household of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey who, after a strange series of events, comes into the household of Lady Anne Boleyn. The King's Great Matter is well under way, and both the king and his lady are becoming increasingly impatient to be married. The story takes us all the way to the summer of 1536, sweeping through the downfall of Queen Anne and everything that happened to her and her household.

Elisabeth is the woman that haunts Lydia's dreams, but why? Michele Kallio's novel takes us on Lydia's historical journey, from modern day Canada and Devon to sixteenth century England while we watch Lydia try to solve the mystery of her dreams and at the same time save her relationship with Dan, who is cracking under the pressure.

I found the new, revised edition of *Betrayal* a light and enjoyable read with an interesting cast of characters and a good storyline. The switches between time periods weren't jarring or difficult to follow, which makes a huge difference to the enjoyment of the story. Both the Tudor and the modern chapters have elements of betrayal, and weaving the two stories together helps get to the hearts of them. Some of the characters are hard to read, but that adds to the story somehow- Dan has some very extreme emotional reactions, which help the reader to understand how helpless he must feel. He does at times come across as rather abusive, however, which in turn helps the reader understand Lydia. The new ending was much more satisfying than the original; the first edition seemed to tie things up a little too neatly, whereas in the revised edition things are left more open and as a result are much more believable. I especially enjoyed the historical chapters and the little surprises hidden within- the author puts forward believable storylines which explain how Anne Boleyn may have come to trial and how the almost unknown George Boleyn, Dean of Lichfield came into history. In a nutshell, *Betrayal* is a fun and easy read which should suit most historical fiction fans' tastes.

Melysah Bunting says

Betrayal by Michele Kallio is a historical fiction novel. It revolves around a modern day couple, Lydia and Dan, and Elisabeth Beeton, a servant at the Court of King Henry VIII. Lydia is having reoccurring nightmares that she just can't explain. And they are literally destroying her life.

Lydia and Dan are fighting all of the time. Lydia barely gets any restful sleep. She is at her wits end. So Dan recommends getting help. Alan does some regression techniques and things start to unfold.

As more is learned Dan becomes jealous of all the time being shared between Alan and Lydia. To make matters worse (or better actually) Lydia's long lost family contacts her. Lydia apparently has an inheritance

waiting for her in England.

Elisabeth Beeton is the servant to Queen Anne. All kinds of things happen. Elisabeth loses the young girl, Sarah, she has cared for. She becomes involved with the Queen's brother. George is married but is hopelessly in love with Beeton. Then the unthinkable happens.

King Henry VIII loses interest in Anne after she cannot manage to produce an heir. Plots are made against the Queen. Everything starts to tragically fall apart.

Historical fiction is my favorite genre for this reason. The detail and ability to keep you absorbed in the story is astonishing. I wanted to let everything go, the pets starve, the house burn. I didn't care. I just wanted to read.

I wish all historical books were this entertaining. Kids (and adults) would actually learn something. I wanted to Wiki all about King Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, and all the history behind the story. It's truly inspiring.

The idea of a contemporary romance kind of feel mixed in with the historical aspect was magical. I love the characters and the story. For an almost 500 page novel the pace was actually quite fast. I could have read 1,000 pages surely. Betrayal is enthralling!
