



## **A Knight in Shining Armor**

*Jude Deveraux*

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*Once upon a time... as a fair maiden lay weeping upon a cold tombstone, her heartfelt desire was suddenly made real before her: tall, broad of shoulder, attired in gleaming silver and gold, her knight in shining armor had come to rescue his damsel in distress...*

Abandoned by a cruel fate, lovely Dougless Montgomery lies weeping upon a cold tombstone in an English church. Suddenly, the most extraordinary man appears. It is Nicholas Stafford, Earl of Thornwyck...and according to his tombstone he died in 1564!

Drawn to his side by a bond so sudden and compelling it overshadows reason, Dougless knows that Nicholas is nothing less than a miracle: a man who does not seek to change her, who finds her perfect, fascinating, just as she is. What Dougless never imagined was how strong the chains are that tie them to the past...or the grand adventure that lay before them.

## A Knight in Shining Armor Details

Date : Published December 1st 2002 by Pocket Books (first published 1989)

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Author : Jude Deveraux

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Genre : Romance, Science Fiction, Time Travel, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction

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# From Reader Review A Knight in Shining Armor for online ebook

## Candace says

I will never forget this book. It is that good.

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## Gavin says

I'm not totally sure what to say about this one or how to rate it. It is fair to say I enjoyed it despite the fact that it was riddled with flaws. It was a fairly fun time travel romance that was just light enough in tone to be fun.

The story was fun. Dougless Montgomery is abandoned by her wastrel boyfriend in a church in rural England after their holiday went bad and prays for a knight in shining armor to save her. She gets that knight in the form of 15th century earl, Lord Nicholas Stafford. Unfortunately for her Nicholas just wants to get home to save his family! This is a historical romance so the pair decide to help each other and fall in love along the way.

I found Jude Deveraux's writing to be quite engaging. Which was a good thing as some of her views on things were horribly dated! Some of the stuff both Nicholas and Dougless did and said were quite cringe-worthy at times. Still, it was no worse than a lot of stuff that can be typically found in historical romance books wrote in the 80s and early 90s. It is just it stands out more when you read such books nowadays!

The ending was a bit surprising and not particularly satisfying but I guess it was fairly original.

All in all I thought this was an entertaining enough read despite the fact that the characters were not an overly likeable bunch and the book suffered from some dated views.

Rating: 3.5 stars.

Audio Note: This was narrated by Steve West. I've warmed a bit to the guy since his horrific performance of the awful The Accidental Highwayman: Being the Tale of Kit Bristol, His Horse Midnight, a Mysterious Princess, and Sundry Magical Persons Besides. His general narration is good and his male voices are OK but he really does struggle with female voices. He makes all the female characters sound like whiny 12 year olds in the middle of throwing a tantrum!

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## siti rahmah says

This is the very first romance book, which made me smile, laugh and cry. Read it three times and decided that I had to have it for myself. So now, it is sitting very nicely in my book cabinet, beckoning me to read it again for I-don't-know-how-many times.

I must say, this is best book of all by Jude Deveraux. About time-travel romance, finding and recognizing true love even if its separated by decades of time. So, you will get to read about Nicholas realising his true

love in Douglass's modern time and when he was returned to his medieval time (with no memory of their love), Douglass was 'transported' and determined to save him from danger and once again, the strength of their love was proven. The scene nearing the end was heart wrenching when they were separated by time yet again, but their souls found each other, and they were 'reunited'. Like all romance novel, the book ended with a happily-ever-after though not in a typical way.

Best read with the 'dont disturb sign' outside your door.

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## **Mary says**

This is one of my all time favorites, no matter what genre of romance. It has elements of historical, contemporary, time travel. And the love story is romantic and heart breaking. If you've never read it do so, if you read it years ago read it again. A true classic.

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## **Heidi Cullinan says**

In 1990 I was a senior in high school, and I was friends with my music teacher. It was one of those odd things I never understood how it happened, though I think it started when the drama teacher cast me for the lead in *Fiddler on the Roof* but I couldn't sing. (That's a long, weird story. Don't ask.) She was charged with fixing that minor detail, which led to a lot of before and after school private lessons. At this point of my life things were starting to come seriously apart. I'd weathered some very personal and not-at-all nice things that hadn't resolved. My parents were mere seconds away from their divorce, and we were all living in the basement of an unfinished house. Probably this is why she was friendly to me, and undoubtedly this is why one day she handed me a paperback with a red cover and a metal gauntlet on the cover holding a rose over a bed of silk. "Here," she said. "You should read this. You should have this."

I remember being a little dubious, but didn't want to disappoint her, so I tried to at least start it so I could fake it. I don't have a specific memory of reading *A Knight in Shining Armor* for the first time, but I remember the feeling of something important blooming inside me, something huge and powerful and true. I thanked the music teacher, and she promptly fed me a zillion romances, many of which I didn't actually like, but many of which I did. None were ever what that first one was, though. I ended up reading every single Jude Deveraux book up until sometime in grad school, eventually getting to the point where I purchased the hardcovers as they came out. I bought a lot of romance novels, a lot, but Deveraux was always a must.

What I remember about reading *AKISH* for the first time was that it was a good, satisfying story with a happy ending, which I needed at that point of my life more than water. The part that really resonated with me, however, were that these people were having sex. Good sex. Yummy, tingly sex that made neurons light up in ways that were a lot more than just a Beavis and Butthead snigger. Part of me had always been very sexual, very aware of sex and its power and confused by the shame that had to go with it. I'd also had some not-so-nice things happen centered around sex. Now here was this book that was fun, easy to read but not simple, light but not worthless, happy but not without struggle—and there was sex. Strawberry ice cream, bitches.

The sex was there and real but so elegant, so alive and yet so classy. I never felt the need to blush. Deveraux

made a safe place for me to enjoy sex, to explore. Reading AKISH healed me, reminded me of what I should be looking for in a lover. Deveraux made it okay to like sex. I remember really liking that Dougless had been sexually active and that her first several times were not great. That was so important to me, after having so many firsts ruined and messed up, but feeling like I could still be okay, because Dougless was. I felt in so many ways like Dougless, like no matter what I did, no matter how nice I was or how hard I tried, everything went to crap around me. Not while I read this book.

As the years went by and I grew older, my reading tastes changed, and so did Ms. Deveraux's writing. I would still buy her books, but they began to resonate less, and so did some of the rereads. For a long time I bought the books anyway, determined to make this relationship work, but eventually I stopped, and every time I saw a new book I would feel sad, like I'd lost something special. Every now and again I would reread old works with varying success, but eventually I deliberately stopped rereading AKISH. I couldn't bear to ever read those words and find anything but perfection, so if I simply relied on my memory, I'd be fine.

Some of this falling out I can now attribute to my muses trying to get my head on straight with my own writing--I had been writing stories all this time, though with no attempts to be published until 1998. By the time I hit 2005, I could read almost no romances no matter who wrote them. In 2007, I stopped reading them entirely. I went on a strange scavenger hunt through the library for any books that had anything to do with gay heroes, especially ones in a relationship, but those were very, very hard to come by. The barest crumbs were a feast. This was also the period in my life when I shut off the internet for a year and wrote like the devil. What would come out of that time would be my first two published novels, for a genre I didn't even know existed as I wrote them.

Once I discovered the gay romance explosion, I devoured everything I could grab. I began to read lesbian romance as well. Lately I've started reading heterosexual romance again, though as of the beginning of April I had not gone back to reread the romances of my roots. Mostly I feared I wouldn't like them. I can be a real reading snob, so pouty and impatient about what I want in a book, and I didn't want to do that to my firsts.

Then came the Romantic Times 2013 convention.

Jude Deveraux would be there, I saw in the program notes, and as the time for the con grew closer, as I made my own frantic author preparations, the battered high school girl who had been saved by romance lifted her head and began to whisper that she'd kind of like to meet her hero. I worried about that. I worried maybe Ms. Deveraux wouldn't receive me well. I had no reason to except that this is actually something I always fear, especially when something is important to me, and because Jude Deveraux is associated with such a vulnerable time in my life, it seemed a bit of a nasty risk to meet her. So much so that though I'd planned to bring my paperback copy of AKISH—yes, that one from 1990—I ended up forgetting it. My husband offered to express it with some swag that had come late, but I said no. No, it wasn't a big deal. It was just a book. She'd be mobbed, and when would I have time to get it signed? And again, I worried, what if she turned up her nose at me? I couldn't stand the thought.

In the middle of the night, my inner high schooler hijacked my phone and texted Dan, "Express the book." He did. It arrived on Thursday of the conference.

I began to let myself be excited. You can ask almost anyone who saw me at RT how I got all bubbly and stupid giddy whenever I talked about meeting her. I showed the book to anyone who would give me ten seconds, and sometimes I had that horrible sense I was boring them or making them uncomfortable, but I couldn't stop myself. It was like now that she was unleashed, that high school girl would not be stopped. When I saw that Jude Deveraux was on a panel with Julie Garwood on Friday morning, I ditched the

Samhain panel I'd meant to attend (sorry my favorite publisher, I still love you) and arrived early to the Deveraux-Garwood Legends of Romance event. I sat in the front row and vibrated with anticipation.

That's the back of my head at 5 o'clock of the picture.

Everyone in the room for that panel describes it as having been in either a rock concert or church or both at the same time. Sarah Wendell says she had to cross her legs so she didn't pee her pants while she stood to ask a question. I sat in my seat and wept openly, feeling foolish and awkward yet unable to stop myself. She was there. They were both there, but she was there, and like something sleeping, that girl inside me sat up and basked in the presence of the woman who had set her free in so many ways.

Deveraux was wonderful. A little reserved, but charming and eloquent and articulate, and basically she was everything I'd ever wanted her to be. Garwood was gregarious and friendly, but I kind of liked that my hero was almost godlike, this sacred woman I could simply bask in. I wanted to stay and get my book signed, but there was a crush and we weren't supposed to be there anyway, so I left. I told myself I would get my book signed the next day at the big signing. If I had to leave my own table for a length of time, I'd do it. At this point my inner high school girl would go nuclear if I didn't let her drive this bus.

I helped set up for the big signing, and I saw where she would be sitting. I saw her books to sign get set out. I got my battered copy stamped, and the woman who did it was charmed by the age of my copy. I went up to Ms. Deveraux's and brought Marie with me to take a photo.

I told myself not to cry or break into crazy hysterics. I had rehearsed what I would say to her, what I felt I had to say, and I sort of tunneled-out the rest of the conference so it was just my hero and that table and me, and wifey with my phone for the picture.

I clutched my book with sweaty hands, and I stood before Jude Deveraux and told her my story, how my music teacher had given me her book, this very book in my hands and how it changed my life. How she was my first romance novel and how much it altered everything about me, what I read and eventually what I wrote. I told her the reason I was about to go sit at my table and sign for my own fans was because of the book in my hands, and I thanked her for being an important part of my life.

Or that was what I hope I said. I really don't remember. I just remember standing there and feeling like this hugely important person was there, not laughing at me, but in fact looking politely charmed, and I tried not to combust. Or pee my pants.

I asked if I could have a picture, and she said yes. Her eyes ended up being closed, but that's okay. I remember her eyes. I remember the sound of her voice. I remember the way she smiled at me, and I won't forget that any more than I will forget her book.

And now my copy is signed.

(I know I just put both those pics in my RT recap post, but how could I not include them here?)

When I got home from Kansas City, I kept the book on my desk for awhile, and I thought about rereading it,

but I was scared. At this point I was scared to touch the book—it's old and yellowed and rough, and now it has her signature in the front. I put it away instead. Then, like the universe was angling at me, someone tweeted that AKISH was on sale on kindle, and in a dream-state I clicked "buy now." For over a week it sat on my kindle, untouched, because I was still afraid. How awful would it be if I reread it now after all this time, after meeting her and having all my catharsis and joy, and I didn't care for it? I ignored it utterly, and then on Mother's Day I got my Paperwhite, and suddenly there was that cover every time I turned it on. Not my cover, not the right cover, but it was still the book, and I knew I was going to read it soon. I kept coming up with reasons to put it off, until yesterday the high school girl got very tired of me and I was reading. Then suddenly it was today, and I was done.

It was better this time than any other time I have ever read it.

I'm so glad I put it away for so long, because it was both familiar and fresh. It has a gorgeous patina about it now, dated by its publication date and yet more intense because of its timelessness. When I closed the kindle cover this afternoon, my first thought was that it is so much better than any romance novel I have read in a long, long time, and I believe I will now elevate it to my top four books, a non-ranked quartet of *Going Postal*, *American Gods*, *Tom Jones*, and now *A Knight in Shining Armor*. Everything was there, as wonderful as it was and yet somehow better. For now as I read I could see where my own roots began, could feel how some of those moments, some of her choices and her voices were always resonating within me every time I write. I found Dougless as powerful and pure as she had ever been. I found Nicolas as charming and handsome and infuriating and flawed and utterly romantic as any hero I have ever read or penned, more so because he is the first, he is the best, he is the center from which they all began.

I learned from my reread as well. I was reminded about stakes, about pacing, about choices, about vulnerabilities and identifications between the reader and the character. I felt the breathlessness of Nicolas's devotion, his vows of love across time. I felt Dougless's weakness and strength balanced so expertly, so delicately and yet so easily. I noticed this time as I never have the incredible grace and skill it takes to make a book so strong and sure and yet so fluid it seems as if it is the creamiest chocolate drink in the world, not too sweet, just a bit of spice. As one drinks this story in, one feels good and happy and sated. It is a book of healing, of hope, of happiness.

And then I turned the last page AND THERE WAS BONUS MATERIAL.

Deveraux had written an afterward, talking about writing it fourteen years ago so it's been some time now since even that addition was put in, but it was new to me, and now when I read it I heard her voice in my head saying the words. I think I'll read it about a zillion more times just to soak it all in. I highly recommend you find a copy with this afterward in it and read through it at least once, especially if you love the book.

If you've never read it, please go do so now. I promise you won't be sorry.

I feel like I've closed a circle in my life, and it feels very good. The high school girl inside me is very happy, very at peace. She's also really looking forward to buying every last one of the books on kindle and rereading them, and discovering new ones. She's thinking about the old Garwood novels too, all of which I'd given away when I was the high school teacher. In fact, I have very very few romance novels left, having given them away because of moving or because of space and now because books are a great place for my allergies to fester.

When I imagined writing this review, I thought I would comb through the book and find highlighted bits and talk about it eloquently as a work of art, as an influential piece of fiction, as the ideal romance novel. I find

now that I cannot. Not this book. It is all those things, but first and foremost for me this book is magic. This book is medicine. This book is bedrock in my soul and in my own writing. I can no more elegantly speak of it than I could sit down and have a casual dinner with Jude Deveraux. I couldn't ever. She's not human to me, not completely, and this book is not just a book.

So this story, this abject adoration is my review. This book I am realizing has always been my compass, and I feel so much better for finding it firmly in my hand again. I have no aspirations to write a book which is this for another reader. I simply wish to pilot my waters with it in my hand, because now more than ever I am convinced it will only lead me to good things.

What more than this could I ever aspire to? A journey without end, heading always toward hope and happily ever after. And sex.

Thank you, Jude Deveraux. For literally everything.

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### **Hannah says**

I'm rating this book 4.5 stars. I really really liked this but not flat out loved. I had 4 minor issues with the book. My first issue was her name. I mean no offence to Douglas's out there but it was hard for me to image a female love interest named that. My second issue was her Ex Robert. In the beginning of the book It was irritating how she let Robert treat her like shit. Douglas also didn't believe Nickolas until have way through the book. (That he was from a different time) Which was way too long. And my last issue was the ending. I was really disappointed with it. Not really happy ending but kind of. The romance in this book was perfect. Perfect pace, passion, and compatibility. I loved these characters together. The time travel Element was done well but a bit underwhelming. I loved Nickolas character. My favourites scenes where when he saw all the things in the 20th century world. Overall I would recommend this book to people who like time travel romance books.

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### **Zeek says**

I read it first when it came out back in the late 80's and have re read it so many times with each read just as fantastic.

Its one of those books that impact you and stays with you forever. Love or hate the ending- it is a romance *must read*.

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### **MelissaB says**

Why a four-star book and a wall-banger?

Hmm...could it be the ending?

The book was great up until the last part where....



Spoilers.....

The hero and heroine do not get together! She travels back to her time while he spends the rest of his life alone! She meets the hero's "soul in another body" on the plane home after she is sent to the present. Supposedly, the hero's soul found hers. Baloney! Sorry, you cannot substitute another person for the actual hero! Such a depressing and horrible ending. Ugghhh! See Kiss of the Highlander by Karen Marie Moning as an example of how to make this scenario turn out with an HEA!

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### **Dawn says**

Note to self. Reviewers say no HEA. Sad ending, heroine with no backbone.

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### **Blacky \*Romance Addict\* says**

[The main dude ends up living his whole life without her! In love! Not being able to be with her! He dies alone when he is old!!!! That is not a f\*cking happy end no matter what b\*llshit she invents for the heroine in present time!!!! (hide spoiler)]

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### **Crystal says**

I LOVED this book. I would have given it 5 stars, but the ending made me want to pull my hair out. I can't really say more without giving anything away. Years ago when I first read it, I remember discussing it with a friend of mine and crying over how much I hated the ending. She said that when she read it, she wanted to slather the book in gravy and feed it to her dog. I thought that was the PERFECT way to describe how I felt after finishing this book.

HOWEVER, with that being said, I still highly recommend this book, believe it or not. It's a fantastic page turner that had me up all night reading. And who knows, maybe you'll love the ending even though I hated it. :)

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### **Lady Gabriella of Awesomeness (On Hiatus) says**

The most frustrating heroine I've ever had the displeasure of coming across for a while now. Her character was too naive and frustrating for most of the book to actually feel any pity for her.

Two star for the originality of the story-line. Even Though that too it was a bit of a drag at times. :/

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### **Tina Hayes says**

This is my all time favorite romance novel, which I've read more than once (the last time being this past

weekend).

Nicholas is a real live Knight in Shining Armor sent to comfort a heartbroken Douglass in 1988. Destined to be soul mates through all eternity, the two set out to clear Lord Nicholas' name and right the wrongs done during his Elizabethan life. Just as he gets used to the weird inventions and strangeness of the twentieth century, they are whisked back through time to 1560 where Douglass gets to experience medieval life.

This timeless romance has stuck in my memory since the first time I read it, a tale you'll never forget. Jude Deveraux does an amazing job on the historic details, from the food to the clothes to the customs. I highly recommend this book.

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## **Didi says**

### **4.5 STARS**

What a remarkably beautiful story! I loved this, even despite the somewhat controversial ending, I really loved this. When poor, down on her luck, Dougless Montgomery gets jilted by her boyfriend and left to fend for herself in rural England, at a church no less, she accidentally summons Nicholas Stafford, Earl of Thornwyck. The fact that he happens to be a knight sent from sixteenth century England baffles the both of them. She cried for a knight in shining armor, she prayed to be given a man that would love her. And although it seemed crazy at first and wholeheartedly unbelievable, she soon realizes her wish had been granted.

This was a time traveling, epic love story. Righting the wrongs of the past and discovering your soul mate exists across all time was the purpose between Dougless's and Nicholas's journey together. I won't get into the details because like any time travel romance, these books must be read to fully understand them. And since this has been around for decades, many have read it already.

I loved Dougless! She was a sweet and considerate woman who grew up wealthy and loved but always felt like she didn't quite measure up. When she loved, she loved with all her being. She gave and gave but was always left behind by the men she gave to. I think she was a great heroine. Strong and determined to help others, especially Nicholas, who found himself in a time not of his own. I couldn't believe the shit she put up with from her boyfriend, Robert. WHAT AN ASS.

His behavior and blatant use of every good thing Dougless gave him was despicable. And so was his disregard for his daughters mistreatment of Dougless.

Nicholas was delicious, truly. Whether in modern England, or rural sixteenth century England, he loved Dougless the way she deserved to be loved. This was such an epic love story. I couldn't hardly put it down. The deception behind Nicholas's legacy was fantastic. It was suspenseful, thrilling and beautiful to read. There were many times I teared up for Dougless, and felt her pain. The angst was not over the top but honest and relatable. So many scenes I had to put the book down and wipe my tears. It did remind me of Karen Marie Moning's Highlander series, but with a couple differences. Her ending was what one would expect, but this book flowed better, was more romantic, more sensual, more absorbing. But the ending here was different and a matter of some minor controversy. You'll have to read it to understand but what I can say, was that I got it. It was still beautiful to me because it showed Dougless and Nicholas were truly soul mates, time having no significance to their love. The scene on the plane was moving and had me in tears yet again. I was honestly afraid I wouldn't like it, but I loved it. I don't think it would have been plausible any other way. The only criticism I have was the lack of an epilogue to show how our couple fared in life. It would have

been the most perfect ending to a beautiful and evocative love story.  
Highly recommended for lovers of historical romance! LOVED IT.

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### **Vicki says**

I first read this book in the 80's and it became my most favorite book. It captured my heart with the romantic story of Dougless Montgomery and Nicholas Stafford, the EArl of Thornwyck. He was magnificent. He had humor, curiosity and belief in the almost impossible truth.

This was my first Jude Deveraux book and I became obsessed with reading all of her books in an attempt to capture that feeling again.

This is a time travel book that touched my heart and made me believe too that there was someone out there at some time in the past for me.

The book made me cry, laugh, and love. What more could you ask for? I did not want the book to end and I have now read it about 4 times. Just to get that feeling again.

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### **Leslie says**

I know what you're thinking...the book's title ALONE should have been my first "red-flag", but you would be wrong. I actually read this because a neighbor had it and physically ran it over to me one day last summer. I thought, "Sure, I'll give it a go." Luckily, she didn't take anything I thought about the book *personally*! Phew!!

Jude Deveraux is a famously popular writer, and since I am NOT about bashing the writer, I will only give my opinion based on her work. Unfortunately, I have nothing positive to say about this book as it was poorly written. It was also excruciatingly cliché and BEYOND the corniest of corny!! ("*Corniest*" - *is that a word??*) Whatever! The third person narrative mode felt like it was written for a child; who consequently might forget the character's names at any given moment, (as they were in print, over and over again!) If I feel like I'm being *READ TO*, instead of *READING* a story on my own, it bugs the holy heck out of me!!

I looked at the reviews and a lot of people liked this book! I was very surprised by this, although, I for one, DID NOT and felt it was only fair to warn you all!!

***Run people, RUN!!***

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### **Ana says**

Mr. Darcy who? Nicholas Stafford, Earl of Thornwyck is a knight in shining armor. Literally.

This book contains two of my favorite things- time travel and dashing British lords.

A Knight in Shining Armor is both hilarious and tragic. It's a really, really good book. So why the three stars? You know that feeling when you read a book and you can't stop thinking about it? Well, that didn't happen to me. I wanted to give this book four stars so badly. I had to force myself to click on the third star. If you're not feelin' it, you're not feelin' it.

Let me start with the things I loved:

- it's a slow burn
- no insta love
- the story is set in Britain
- the heroine is a total mess, which I loved. I hate perfect heroines.
- the hero is complex, he's noble but he's in no way perfect

Things I disliked:

- slow burn. There's slow and then there's slow. Like, stop drinking tea and have sex already!
- at times the book was quite slow. Some parts were... unnecessary. Endless descriptions of each new meal, buying new clothes, trying clothes on, hating on ugly outfits, gushing over nice outfits, eating, eating, eating, drinking tea, drinking tea, drinking tea, crying over ex boyfriends, trying to uncover mysteries... Fuck it, if I wanted mystery, I'd read Agatha Christie.
- the ending. Whhhhhhyyyyyyyyy!

Ignore my rating, give this one a try. I gave Twilight five stars. Clearly, I'm not the most reliable source.

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## Eastofz says

I've been told by just about every reader who's read this «romance classic» that it's a sad story and a very upsetting one at that because of the ending, well I have to strongly disagree. It's exceptionally *moving* and my hat's off to the author for thinking out of the romance box for once. That said, I love a good heart-wrenching cry and a tragic story –and I'm not saying this one is or isn't because I really think it depends on what you expect out of a romance novel. If you're on the side that says “romance novels HAVE to have a sticky sweet HEA” then you might not see the book as having one, I thought it did have an HEA but it was just presented differently (*I can just feel those readers who don't agree with me having read this novel shaking their heads with a look of pure disgust on their faces muttering, “is she wacked!?!” lol! ;)*)

The story is your typical time travel romance: the hero is from the 1500s and finds himself in the 1980s (which is a kind of time travel for the 21st century reader already—lol!). He meets up with the heroine who thinks he's some crackpot, and the story starts. Well for the first 300 pages I didn't like the story. I thought it was borderline boring, yada yada, yada, hurry up already and couldn't see what all the fuss was about. The h/h don't even have any romantic notions for one another for the first 100+ pages –for a romance that's annoying. While they go through their escapades and such I kept wondering where this “great love” story was hiding. So all this part of the book I'd rate a 2.5-3 stars. I just never felt the big connection between Nicholas and Dougless (the absolute worst name I've ever come across for a heroine because I kept getting

confused thinking it was a man!).

Then you get to the last 100 or so pages and that's where things start to get interesting. The hero becomes three dimensional finally and lots of things start to happen (gruesome and otherwise—the gruesome parts being so vivid that you feel like you're reading historical fiction and not a historical romance –actually learned a few things too but would've rather not known\*\*shudder shudder\*\*). The romance also develops relatively well as does the interaction with the other characters –all very cut-throat and not a pretty romance setting. The heroine is still somewhat annoying going nuts with wanting to help the hero save what he's set out to save. There are two steamy scenes that are worth mentioning but there's not enough of that in the book (more of a “clean” romance almost), nor is there enough emotional or physical intimacy overall until you get to the BIG scene near the end and there you just die over and over again. Your throat closes up and you're crying the ol' river –it is so kick-you-in-gut moving and it's just one line too. And that's what saves this book making it a 4 star read because if the author can do that after you've been slogging through the ho-hum, well they can certainly write.

Maybe the book needed to be edited down or maybe just more development between the relationship aspect between Nick and Doug was needed. It could also be that it's just not my kind of love story for the most part. If I was rating based on the “twist” the author created and how it just killed me then it's an easy 5, but I can't forget forcing myself through those 300 first pages of blah.

So if you can bear with the first three quarters of the book you'll be well-rewarded if you enjoy those emotional roller coaster OMG-OMG-where's-the-friggin-kleenex-already (!! ) kind of story. This is a real “love story” and not just a romance novel, which is a whole different ball game. I'm still sighing and OMG-ing over it all :)

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### **Kathy says**

Best historical romance book ever written! A Knight in Shining Armor is a must read. Imagine traveling back in time to the medieval ages to meet your soulmate!

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### **Gigi says**

I keep wavering between a 4 and a 5 for this book. I literally couldn't put this book down. When I was unable to read the book, I found myself thinking about what happened in the book only because I was going through withdrawal! This love story was such a sweet one and funny at times. I rarely find myself laughing out loud while reading a book. Not in this case. Some of the funniest scenes were when the heroine goes back in time. She has to entertain Nicholas' mother and she does so by singing television theme songs and movie tunes. Hilarious! One of the things I loved most about the book was the connection that the H/h had to each other. There were a couple of eye roll moments. However, I loved that Nicholas was able to feel what Dougless felt and vice versa. For me, that added another layer to the love story. I love when a book makes you feel what the characters were feeling and this book did that for me. My first Deveraux book and definitely not my last!

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