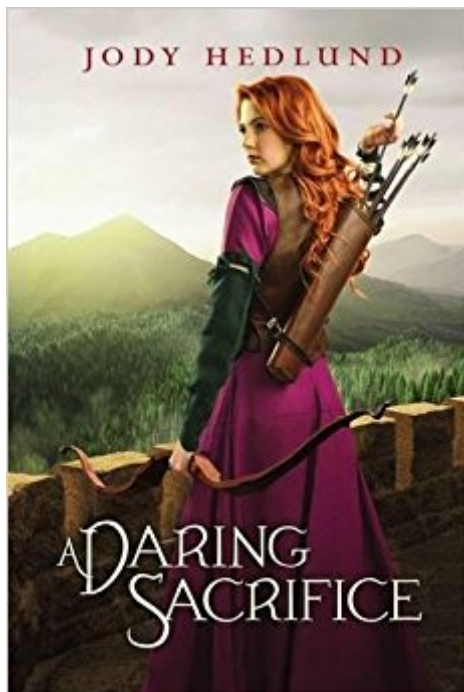


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A Daring Sacrifice



Synopsis

In a reverse twist on the Robin Hood story, a young medieval maiden stands up for the rights of the mistreated, stealing from the rich to give to the poor. All the while, she fights against her cruel uncle who has taken over the land that is rightfully hers. Forced to live in the woods and hide with the poor people she's grown to love, she works to save and protect them, but she never anticipates falling in love with the wealthy knight who represents all she's come to despise.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-The Cloaked Bandit has been robbing the noble families of Wessex for years and has yet to be caught. Skilled at hiding in the forests, this bandit is able to conceal the fact that she is a girl, Juliana Wessex, and a member of the ruling family, who everyone believes is dead. Her talents allow her to feed and shelter the peasants of the land. While playing this Robin Hood-like role, she encounters Collin Goodrich, who recognizes her from years past. He encourages her to stay on his estate after she is injured, and teens will want to read on to find out if Collin is able to win her heart and if he will sacrifice everything for her. While Juliana and Collin are interesting characters and the action is easy to follow, the story is idealistic as opposed to realistic. While Juliana is 17, she doesn't sound authentically teen, though falling in love and resisting temptation will be themes that will resonate with some young adults. The book includes discussion questions in the back matter relating to its Christian motifs. VERDICT A great selection for collections looking for titles with strong Christian themes or for readers who enjoy fairy tales.-Karen Alexander, Lake Fenton High School, Linden, MI
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Prolific Hedlund is back with another tale of medieval romance, a sequel to *An Uncertain Choice* (2015). Lady Juliana of Wessex lives in the forest, disguised as a boy, stealing to provide for the remnants of her father's uprising against her vicious uncle. She doesn't want to steal but must even though she is the rightful heir to the rich Wessex lands. But she goes too far when she tries to steal from the lord of the neighboring Goodrich lands and is injured in the process. Collin Goodrich has seen through her disguise and takes her to his castle to protect her. Their friendship builds and warms into a budding romance—until Collin's sister invites the Wessex usurpers into the Goodrich home. Juliana's no longer safe—and now neither is Collin. Hedlund's light on historical detail and makes no apparent attempt to find a medieval voice to suit the 1390 English setting. Nevertheless, this narrative told from Juliana's and Collin's alternating points of view has engaging-enough characters and plenty of derring-do to entertain young romance enthusiasts. Formulaic but fun for genre fans wanting a quick read. (Historical romance. 12-16) (Kirkus)The Cloaked Bandit has been robbing the noble families of Wessex for years and has yet to be caught. Skilled at hiding in the forests, this bandit is able to conceal the fact that she is a girl, Juliana Wessex, and a member of the ruling family, who everyone believes is dead. Her talents allow her to feed and shelter the peasants of the land. While playing this Robin Hood–like role, she encounters Collin Goodrich, who recognizes her from years past. He encourages her to stay on his estate after she is injured, and teens will want to read on to find out if Collin is able to win her heart and if he will sacrifice everything for her. While Juliana and Collin are interesting characters and the action is easy to follow, the story is idealistic as opposed to realistic. While Juliana is 17, she doesn't sound authentically teen, though falling in love and resisting temptation will be themes that will resonate with some young adults. The book includes discussion questions in the back matter relating to its Christian motifs. VERDICT A great selection for collections looking for titles with strong Christian themes or for readers who enjoy fairy tales. (School Library Journal)Historical fiction author Jody Hedlund writes her second young adult novel about a fourteenth-century young woman living an unconventional life. In *A Daring Sacrifice*, Juliana Wessex is the rightful ruler of Wessex. But the current Lord Wessex (her uncle) believes she died three years ago when her father lost his life. Juliana hides in the forest and steals to provide a livelihood for the peasants on her land, impoverished by her uncle's harsh rule. It is a life filled with risks and danger, and she struggles with the justification of her actions. When she is forced to flee Wessex after escaping capture, Juliana makes the mistake of trying to rob Colin

Goodrich, who recognizes Juliana by her red hair. Colin takes her to his castle after she is injured and introduces her as a distant cousin. But her uncle discovers her presence. To what lengths will her uncle go to keep Wessex for himself? Who makes the daring sacrifice? Different text fonts indicate Juliana's and Colin's points of view. The spiritual element is evident but not heavy-handed; Colin and Juliana ask for God's leading and try to live godly lives, which is especially hard for Juliana since she steals from the nobility. Filled with descriptive narrative and endearing characters, *A Daring Sacrifice* is an entertaining read except for the necessary violence in the fighting scenes. Its believable plot has enough twists in the last third of the book to keep the reader up late! Fans of Lisa Bergren's *River of Time* series, Dina Sleiman's *Valiant Hearts* series, and Melanie Dickerson's medieval young adult books will also enjoy Hedlund's medieval trilogy. Readers may want to read Hedlund's *An Uncertain Choice* (reviewed in *Christian Library Journal*, Jan/Feb/Mar/Apr 2015). A third book is in the works. Recommended for teen collections in public libraries and school libraries. Carol R. Gehringer, worthy2read.wordpress.com (*Christian Library Journal*)

Completely delightful! This spin on the Robin Hood fable brings us into the life of Juliana Wessex, a medieval maiden who moonlights as the Cloaked Bandit. Juliana is of the nobility but has been ousted by her cruel Uncle; fearing for her life she hides with others in the woods of her family's land. Much like Robin Hood she takes from the rich to feed the poor. Things take a turn when she runs into a wealthy and noble knight. While there are aspects to the story that mimic the Robin Hood tale, Hedlund makes it her own and does a wonderful job of winnowing out truths, as well as a delightful tale. This story engaged me early on but really wowed me in the last half of the story. The romance was sweet and clean, and without giving too much away, a wonderful example of true love. There are a few kisses but nothing inappropriate for the age level. And while young adults will enjoy this story, I believe adults will be equally swept up into the tale. This novel can be read as a stand alone, however, it does have characters from Hedlund's previous novel, *An Uncertain Choice*. My recommendation would be to read them in order, but as I said you do not have to! For those of you who did read the previous novel, you will be delighted to know that the noble knight in this story is Collin or Lord Goodrich! Yay! Not only that but it looks like there is in the works a 3rd novel for Sir Bennet! To wrap it all up, this one is definitely worth the read! It left me with some good truths to chew on, a grin on my face and a smile in my heart! 4.5 Stars

I liked the first book in this series okay, just enough to want to read this second book, but this was

on my TBR for a long time after I read the first book. Since the third book is out and I'm at least somewhat interested in it, I wanted to read this second book to see if I liked it any better than the first one and see if I really wanted to commit to finishing the series or if I wouldn't bother. I did like it more than I remember liking the first one, it has a lot of action, though it can get surprisingly gory at times, there was a little bit of gore in the first book, but we're talking a big escalation from that here, I was really not expecting that, but I did like all the action scenes. I liked the characters, Colin was my favorite part, he was just so much fun and I loved him for it. Juliana was okay, though I would have maybe liked a little more depth to her and her situation, the motives behind her situation are mentioned here and there, but I got the feeling of them being a little bit too glossed over sometimes. Overall though I did like it more than the first one, it's still not exactly making my favorites list. I had thought that the first book might be good for younger readers, but I would not recommend this for anyone under 15, and I'm really not sure I would recommend this series just in general anymore. I might read the next one, but so far I'm not that impressed with this series.

This novel earns four out of five stars from me. Juliana, a female Robin Hood, robs from her uncle to keep food in her belly. Her backstory is interesting and convincing, although this novel could have been longer to explore that more. Collin has inherited his father's massive estate which borders the estate where Juliana was born and raised as a noble for the first ten years of her life. He has a spoiled sister and very little interest in being tied to an estate. He enjoyed his adventures with The Noblest Knight. Collin immediately sees through Juliana's disguise as a man when she robs him. He follows her with his unbeatable tracking skills and takes her back to his estate. If Juliana hadn't been gravely injured, I wouldn't have accepted her staying with him for nearly a week. Of course, he does pay her in gold and jewels. I found this somewhat belittling, but Juliana accepted it as a way to provide for her band of peasants in hiding. The politics behind this circumstance were hardly touched upon. The romance was enjoyable without knowing all these details, but the broader story suffered because of these omissions. Collin was the one of the three knights I chose in AN UNCERTAIN CHOICE, so it was nice to see him find true love. It isn't an easy path, complicated by cruel and greedy men, a spoiled lady and a headstrong woman. It's fairly short, a quick read, but perfect for fans of the Robin Hood trope. As the first book ended with a hint about the danger of the second, this one ends with a preview of the danger awaiting Sir Bennet in the next book.

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