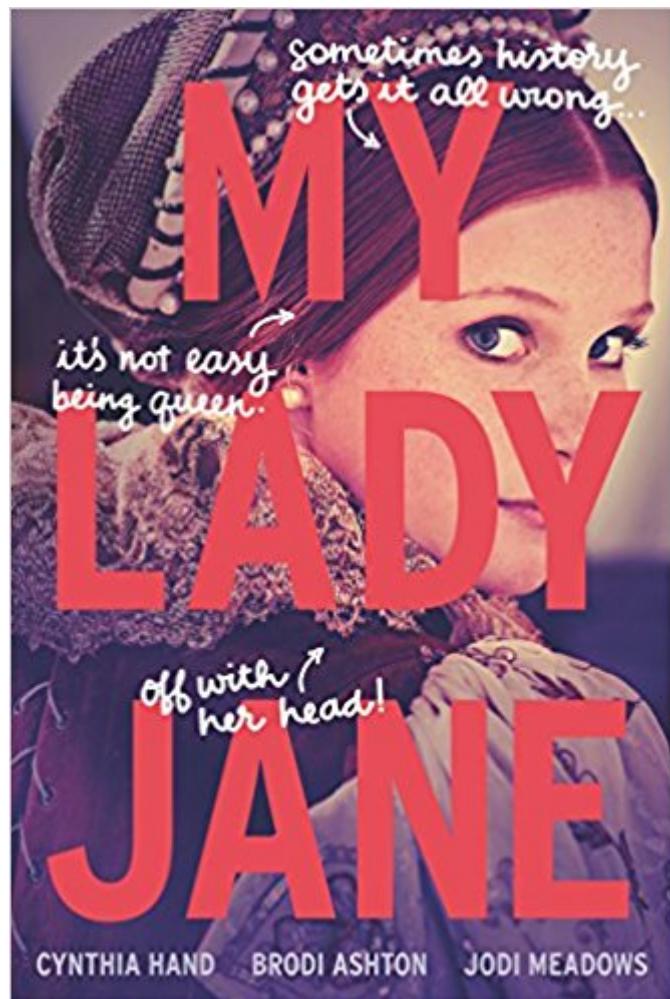


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## My Lady Jane



## Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller \* Publishers Weekly Best Young Adult Book of 2016 \* Bustle Best Young Adult Book of 2016 \* YALSA 2017 Best Fiction for Young Adults This comical, fantastical, romantical, New York Times bestselling, (not) entirely true story of Lady Jane Grey is “an uproarious historical fantasy that’s not to be missed” (Publishers Weekly, starred review). In *My Lady Jane*, coauthors Cynthia Hand, Brodi Ashton, and Jodi Meadows have created a one-of-a-kind YA fantasy in the tradition of *The Princess Bride*, featuring a reluctant king, an even more reluctant queen, a noble steed, and only a passing resemblance to actual history—because sometimes history needs a little help. At sixteen, Lady Jane Grey is about to be married off to a stranger and caught up in a conspiracy to rob her cousin, King Edward, of his throne. But those trifling problems aren’t for Jane to worry about. Jane gets to be Queen of England. Like that could go wrong.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 260 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • In real life, Edward VI and Lady Jane Grey died young in 16th-century England. Here, Edward and Jane get another chance at happiness thanks to the irrepressible imaginations of the authors. Adventure, intrigue, humor, and romance abound—so, too, does high fantasy. England is a place where people (including royalty) are either Elfians (those who can shape-shift) or Verities (those who cannot). Because many Verities believe Elfian magic is evil, they set about to obliterate it. Elfians retaliate. Also, someone keeps poisoning the king’s food. The plot, then, involves Edward, Jane, and their allies trying to figure out how to keep peace in the

kingdom, find out who is poisoning the king's food, and restore Edward to the throne (he is presumed dead and gads about incognito for part of the book). English "facts" are woven in with such subtle assurance that they come across as a genuine part of English history. For instance, the year the volatile Henry VIII discovered his leonine animal form and devoured the court jester is known in the kingdom's collective memory as the Year of the Lion. Wisecracks are prevalent, which would be grating after a while if the characters did not fairly sparkle with the complete array of honest human qualities. Readers will need to know the basic backstory of Lady Jane Grey and Edward VI. VERDICT A great choice for those who enjoy lighthearted, alternative history adventures and romance. —Jennifer Prince, Buncombe County Public Libraries, NC --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

“Wacky, irreverent, and just plain fun. This fantasy-adventure politely tips its hat to history before joyfully punting it out of the way. An utter delight.” (Booklist (starred review)) “An uproarious historical fantasy that’s not to be missed.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) “Gleefully anachronistic comedy.” (Kirkus Reviews) “Three cheers for this well-written and rollicking revision of history full of timely mannerisms and bold adventure. Those who enjoy clever humor, colorful fantasy, and light romance will savor each page.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) “The Tudors meets Monty Python. Prepare to laugh and gasp and clutch your pearls.” (Tahereh Mafi, New York Times bestselling author of the Shatter Me series) “History, humor, and unexpected magic come together in this marvelous story.” (Jessica Day George, author of Silver in the Blood) “Adventure, intrigue, humor, and romance abound. A great choice for those who enjoy lighthearted, alternative history adventures.” (School Library Journal)

My criteria for my first read of the year usually is as follows: an author I know and love, a book I’ve been highly anticipating and something that’s easy to read. My Lady Jane easily met all three requirements, so I didn’t hesitate to dive right into it on the first of January. And, truth be told, I couldn’t have picked a better choice! Jane Grey is known in actual history to be the “nine day queen,” Edward VI’s successor for a little over a week. No one really knows what happened, and in response to the “what if” hanging in the air, authors Brodi Ashton, Cynthia Hand and Jodi Meadows worked together to tell the (not so true) (but oh so fun) tale of the Lady Jane Grey. My Lady Jane is a book that is meant to

entertain in a gloriously funny, satisfying way. The narration is excellent, complete with wry observations, witty retorts and a dash of whimsy. I was hooked right from the start! (And no, it's not just because I find British royal history fascinating, though that was definitely another reason I enjoyed it.) I loved the tone, which made it feel like I was reading someone's journal or hearing a storyteller tell the tale. I loved the switches between characters, because it was all too interesting to discover what was going on with each individual. I loved the humor, because it is so rare for a novel to make me laugh out loud (and I did laugh reading this one, and multiple times). I loved the magic, which was simple but still so entertaining. It was certainly all too easy to get swept up in learning what was to become of Jane, Guildford and Edward, and it was just impossible to do anything but see these three through to the end of their story. Can you tell I was happily entertained by this tale? Because I was! The combination of magic, history and humor (with just a tiny bit of romance) was utterly irresistible. Whether you're fascinated by actual history or a total newbie to Jane's story, this novel is guaranteed to make you crack a smile, if not elicit full-on belly laughs. I know I enjoyed it, and I certainly think that plenty of other readers will too.

Rating: 4.5/5 PenguinsQuick Reasons: super entertaining; these characters are vibrantly different and yet still familiar; the humor in this is SPOT ON; LOVED the narrators, they helped to both bridge the gap and break the wall down; intriguing, unique premise to the "magical" aspectsIf I could brew snark and put a stopper in satire, this book would be at the tippy top of my favorites list. Seriously, the level of personality JUST in the narrators alone was consistently sending me into fits of giggles. They (the narrators, not the giggle fits) helped to both bridge the gap between reader and characters...and also, somehow, build up the wall at the same time? I'm not sure if that even makes sense as an explanation. While they were fairly transparent with their chronicling of the events, they also made it very apparent how unreliable they could be. By this, I mean they often led us, the readers, onto hidden and treacherous paths toward what we thought, at the time, was disappointment...only to totally change directions halfway through and surprise us entirely. Basically, this whole journey was a mess of chaos, scattered thoughts, and pitter-pattery heartbeats--and I adored every single moment!The characters are also just as vibrantly written, with their own distinct flairs and personalities. I found myself falling in love with and then loathing them each in turn, though for varying reasons (some of which are due to those pesky flighty romance butterflies). Seriously, this is a roMESS from start to finish! While each character is uniquely written, they also (at least, in certain instances) maintain a semblance of the real-life historical figures they're based

upon. This both entertained me throughout, and made placing the characters/their relationships to each other slightly easier in the middle of the messiest bits. (Don't worry, Penguins--mess is a good thing in this instance!)---And since this was supposedly the first day of his happily-ever-after, he could only conclude that marriage consisted of four solid walls, a door too small to squeeze through, and a window too high to jump from.---This plot is fast-paced and filled with the type of satirical snark I've been DYING to read for ages now, but have been unable to find of late. There were so many moments I found myself piecing things together only to laugh out loud at the brilliance behind the implications (the play on horse and steed, especially, was almost too much for my poor ribs!) While it is obvious this isn't true to actual historical events (or, at least, such events have been altered to better fit the magic of this world) I really enjoyed the creativity and fun that the authors brought to this tale. I am just SO glad I made time for this book this month--I should have read it eons ago, honestly! The characters are witty and vibrant, the satirical snark is top-notch, and the plot is super entertaining. I recommend this to lovers of historical satires, delicious word-play, and journeys that quite literally RETELL history! Breathe deeply, Penguins; what beastly form will you take when the light flares?

Oh my, what a wonderful book! This is a fantasy alternate history in a world where Elfs andians (sort of were creatures in the Andre Norton tradition) and Verities (normal people) add to the politics in Tudor England. It is well-drawn with people I came to love. It is set during Edward VI's illness and death, Lady Jane's marriage and succession to the throne, and the following chaos. Edward grows in maturity and wisdom, Jane is delightfully bookish, and Mary and Elizabeth both are in the story. The authors had me from this sentence on: "Yes, it's a tragedy, if you consider the disengagement of one's head from one's body tragic." That is the tone that is throughout the book. I think the authors expressed the primary theme here: "Evil will exist among Elfs andians, just as goodness will exist among Verities. I believe Elfs andians deserve protection from persecution. The scales need to be righted in the direction of equality. And if it were the other way around, and Verities were persecuted, I would still fight for equality. Not dominance. Dominance leads to tyranny." Secondary themes are friendship and love in various forms, responsibility, and learning to control one's special gifts. Who should read this book? Anyone who enjoys fantasy or alternate histories. Fans of Andre Norton's Witch World series. People who enjoy well-written, witty books. Just go ahead and read it!

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