



## **A Worthy Rebel**

*Jody Hedlund*

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A desperate noblewoman, a rebellious peasant, and a forbidden love.

While fleeing an arranged betrothal to a heartless lord, Lady Isabelle becomes injured and lost. Rescued by a young peasant man, she hides her identity as a noblewoman for fear of reprisal from the peasants who are bitter and angry toward the nobility.

Cole Warwick cannot turn his back on a person in need and soon finds himself falling for Izzy, the gentle and beautiful runaway who is mending in his cottage. As the leader of an imminent uprising against the nobility, he tries to resist his growing feelings for Izzy to protect her from the dangerous life he's chosen. But the longer she stays, the more he hopes she'll never leave.

When Izzy's true identity is revealed, Cole feels betrayed. With the rebellion underway, can Cole forgive Izzy and find a way to save her from an unhappy marriage? Or will he and his peasant army be destroyed before he has the chance to fight for the people and the woman he loves?

## **A Worthy Rebel Details**

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Author : Jody Hedlund

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Genre : Romance, Young Adult, Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Historical Romance, Christian Romance

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# From Reader Review A Worthy Rebel for online ebook

## Angel Huckstep says

This is my favorite book of Jody's thus far!! I really loved A Daring Sacrifice and didn't think anything could beat it, but this book proved me wrong. Although totally different plot from A Daring Sacrifice, I have to say—it's the best!! Colin (A Daring Sacrifice) is very flirty and rich, while Cole (A Worthy Rebel) was level-headed, hardworking, and all-round a worthy rebel. Even though I liked the plot better in this book, I wish it had more of an ending. It felt like I'm in this paradise and then POP! it's over...the characters deserved more than that. Amazing book, and the characters were realistic! Already excited for the next one and am anticipating to see who's story Jody will share next!!

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## Faye says

Lady Isabelle has always felt like she was in her sister, Olivia's shadow. She is titled, but penniless, and now she has the opportunity to marry in order to provide for her people. But when her prospective husband turns out to be a wretched, sadistic man, Thomas Neville, she flees his castle intending to take refuge with her sister.

Cole Warwick is the son of a woodcutter, and tenant of Neville, he has inherited his father's woodcutting license and does what he can to care for his sister and mother. He and his friends are training to defend themselves against Neville's unfair and violent practices.

When Cole finds Izzy in the woods, injured, he brings her home where his mother and sister help to care for her. Izzy is hesitant to reveal her true identity, but with each passing day she comes to admire Cole and his heart for others. Can Izzy and Cole find a way to help the villagers, and protect them from Neville's violence?

The 5th book in the series, it stands well on its own, but couples well with the previous book which centers on her sister, Olivia. I didn't even know this was coming, and to be honest had kind of thought the last book was the final of the series, so you can imagine my delight when it was announced that Ms. Hedlund was releasing a 5th and final story in this series.

Action packed, with a Robin Hood-like feel to it, this was a coming of age story about Izzy, who we were briefly introduced to in the previous book. She has a big heart for others, especially children, I loved her friendship with Cole's sister, Posy, and how she encourages her to see herself as beautiful. Izzy finds her strength fighting for her voice and say in her life.

Cole is a born leader, he loves his family and doesn't want anymore than to be treated fairly. He is a hardworker, and very brave.

Overall, this was an enjoyable read with a climactic ending, admirable heroes. I really liked getting to know Izzy better, as well as reading about the devoted Cecil. The villain was absolutely vile. A great read for fans of the other books in this series.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Rachael says**

A thoroughly enjoyable YA read with great, relatable characters, a realistic setting, and several gems of truth and good counsel for anyone, especially our youth.

The characters from the primary to secondary are terrific. This book stands very well on its own, but I highly recommend reading the series. All the books have a terrific gem of truth on which to think and great stories to enjoy. The characters from those stories make appearances in this one.

The book is so incredibly well done. I'm thrilled to have a YA series that is clean and teaches morality and purity. Teen reads that I want my daughter to have are very hard to find.

I received an ebook from the author. All opinions are my own. ( Its so great that I have a paperback headed my way for my forever shelves! )

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### **Cheryl Olson says**

A Worthy Rebel is the final chapter in the "An Uncertain Choice" series by Jody Hedlund and I greatly enjoyed this finale. I have to say as someone that doesn't really qualify as a "YA reader", I still very much enjoyed it. The old quote by C.S. Lewis, "Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again," applies here- a great story is a great story however it is quantified.

As this story begins Lady Isabelle, Countess of Ulster is running to get away from the very cruel and possessive man Lord Neville, her intended who is a match arranged from her Cinderella'ish type step-mother, who she is just now realizing is definitely not someone that she should be saying "I do" to, but rather someone to be avoiding at all costs. A very loyal and kind manservant helps her to make her escape through the local forest land, home to local mistreated peasants of the land and most notably Cole Warwick, leader of the peasant rebels. Lady Isabelle and her servant are separated and she is discovered by Cole in a very ill

state and taken back to his village to help nurse her back to health. Isabelle, realizing where she is, that she cannot disclose her true identity to Cole as she discovers he is part of the rebels who are conspiring to stage an uprising against Lord Neville and his rule. Her role as nobility in her mind, would not be met with positive feelings by the peasants so she becomes "Izzy" a nickname that her sister Olivia called her, to Cole and his mother and niece.

There is immediate connection with Cole and Izzy and as she continues to get to know him and the people that are in his village, she comes to see what hard working amazing people they are. As her feelings grow for Cole, she knows that she needs to tell him who she really is, but just as she is about to tell him the truth about her true identity, she is interrupted and can't disclose to him who she is. As the story goes on, the characters both grow in their ability to do what's right and what God would want, and not let fear, or anger dictate their actions. For me, I felt a bit of a kinship with Izzy as she had to do something completely uncharacteristic for her, push fear aside and do what she was called to do. The "noble woman" falling in love with the commoner is well done in this story and it's fun to see how things get resolved in the end, which I will leave for you to find out. I would also like to point out that the discussion questions at the end of the book are very well done, and I feel would lead to some great conversations with teen girls especially. Thank you Jody Hedlund for a wonderful series and for writing some great books for young and old alike!

5 stars- I was given a complimentary kindle copy of this book for review purposes. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Caitlyn Santi says**

I've really enjoyed all of Jody's YA novels in this series, and I was very excited to learn there would be a fifth installment. After the last book I was pretty confident that I knew who Isabelle would end up with (Sir Darien) so I was totally surprised that this book features Cole, an entirely new character as its leading man! I loved Cole, he was a great hero. I liked Isabelle in the last book so it was great to get inside her head and get to know her. Her character development from the beginning of the novel to the end was fabulous. I loved watching her learn to be courageous and heroic in her own unique way! Like all of Jody's books this one has a fabulous cast of secondary characters! One of my favorites was Cole's best friend Priest, I greatly admired and absolutely loved how he quoted scripture in casual conversations, I wanna have a faith like him when I grow up! Another thing I loved about this book was the message that kisses are something to save for the person you love and want to marry and not something to be given away lightly, this is a great message for teens and adults alike.

Overall, this was a great conclusion to this series! I really enjoyed reading A Worthy Rebel and I hope Jody writes more YA novels in the future, because I can't wait to read them!

I received a copy of this book from the publisher, which did not influence my review in any way. All thoughts and opinions are one hundred percent my own.

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## **Haley S says**

Wow, Jody Hedlund! How do you do it? Somehow you manage to draw the reader (me) in and make me want to read non-stop until I find out what happens. How is that possible?

Isabelle and Cole are great main characters. Even though I did not like them as much as the other characters in the rest of the series, I still enjoyed reading their story. I was actually surprised with Isabelle's story. In *A Loyal Heart*, the third book in *An Uncertain Choice* series, I thought I knew how Isabella's story would end and how she would get her happily ever after. But I guess I was wrong. However, I am glad how it ended anyhow!

The story was super easy read. I read it in just a few days—but that might also be because I didn't want to put it down. I would recommend this book to everyone who loves a cute, medieval romance. Also, I would also recommend the rest of the books in this series. They are all very cute and have sweet stories.

The cover is beautiful. I really like her dress. So I'm going to give it 5 stars. Plus, I really like the background and scenery.

I am going to give this book itself 4 stars. It was wonderfully well-written. But I just didn't like it as much as the rest of the books in the series. However, I will still probably be reading this book again when I need a story full romance, adventure, and intrigue.

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## **Trisha Robertson (Joy of Reading) says**

I was swept away into the intrigue and adventure right from the beginning of this delightful story! Jody Hedlund has a way with words that seems to captivate my imagination and keep me eagerly turning pages late into the night.

Lady Isabelle starts out as a young lady who is fearful and sheltered. I enjoyed watching her grow into a strong character as she not only learns to trust those she once feared, but she also learns to see her own worth and her ability to make a difference in the lives of those around her.

Cole Warwick has a gentle heart for those he sees in need, yet at the same time, he carries around a heavy burden of anger toward the unjust treatment from the nobility. Cole often brushes aside the advice of not only his mother but of his best friend. However, their words do stick with him and he comes to understand that letting go of the past is the only way he will be able to move forward and enjoy his future.

Will two people from polar opposite ends of the class spectrum find a way to be together? Or will their differences be too big of a wall to tear down?

While this book is the 5th in the series, you could read it as a stand-alone. A few characters show up from previous books, but not in such a way that you would feel lost. With that said, however, I would encourage you to read the other books, as they are just as delightful as this one.

I give this story 4.5 stars and would encourage you to snag a copy of this book for yourself and a friend to enjoy!

(I receive complimentary books for review from publishers, publicists, and/or authors, including Netgalley. I am not required to write positive reviews. The opinions I have expressed are my own.)

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### **Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says**

I really, really love this series so it's a happy day when a new book releases! Yay!

I think I loved Izzy and Cole from the very beginning. They are both loyal and kind. Cole is a fierce defender and leader for his people who are downtrodden and suffering. He is smart and strong but he is also gentle and kind. It's an awesome combination and I both loved and admired him. I think the way he went from pretending to all in with Izzy was sigh worthy. He didn't hum and haw too long, he knew and he jumped in. He knew what he wanted, he let Izzy know and then pursued it. Yumma.

Izzy is so determined to help her people. She wants to be something noble and live up to her position and duty but doesn't know exactly how to do that, especially when she feels like she is living in her sister's shadow. I thought she was brave and kind. Especially in the end. She was a rock star. I really loved her.

The forward momentum was good and I was invested in the story the whole way through. This is a fantastic addition to this series! yay!

Content: violence (some graphic in nature), kissing

- I received a complimentary copy of this book. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Rebecca says**

"Was there a difference between fighting for those you loved versus fighting out of hatred for the enemy?"

"Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good." . . . Cole Warwick's trustworthy friend Priest, had the uncanny ability to apply the Holy Scripture to nearly every circumstance that life had to offer, and in this case . . . Cole's anger towards Lord Thomas Neville had provoked him to the point of rage and revenge. How dare the man take the lives of two young innocents while permanently maiming another? All while allowing an audience to eyewitness his nefariousness; the lord's lovely bride-to-be.

Lady Isabelle is desperate to escape an arranged marriage with the brute whose reputation has already proceeded him, and so follows her manservant deep into the forest during the dead of night, determined to reach her sister; Lady Olivia, the Baroness of Windsor, in order to seek refuge and protection. The escape took a wrong turn and Izzy finds herself desperately lost and in need of medical assistance, when the leader of Lord Neville's dissatisfied peasants happens by; tenderly carrying her to his home and placing her into the capable hands of his mother, who gently tends Izzy's wounds and offers her a place of sanctuary to rest and recuperate.

Never disclosing her true identity, Izzy allows herself to be drawn to the honorable woodcutter, fearing that at some point her duplicity will stir a bloody rebellion, costing the lives of those she had grown to love. Could she find the courage to rebel against "the way things had always been done"? This lovely story is full

of life lessons for readers of any generation, while captivating its audience with page turning intensity.

I received a copy of this book from the author, the opinions stated are entirely my own.

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### **Brittany says**

Oh my! Once again, Jody Hedlund has crafted a tale that will captivate both teens and adults alike. I absolutely loved this story! A Worthy Rebel is book five in the An Uncertain Choice book series, however, it can definitely be read and understood easily without having read any of the prior books.

This story had it all: a truly villainous bad guy, a damsel in distress, downtrodden peasants, and a strong hero who was trying to fight for the rights of his poor village. Izzy and Cole were characters that I could not get enough of. Their growing romance was perfectly written, leaving me cringing as I imagined what Cole's reaction might be when he discovered Izzy's true identity.

I also really liked the personality of these two characters. I loved that Isabelle grew into the woman God created her to be as the story progressed. It was quite the thing to see. And Cole, strong and caring for his family and friends, held a lot of understandable anger toward the noble class. Yet, he had growing to do, too. These characters were already likable at the beginning of the book, but grew into truly wonderful characters by the end of it. I enjoyed this book from start to finish.

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

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

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### **Shirley Chapel says**

This story takes place in Europe around the year of 1394. At that time women whether rich or poor had very little rights in their lives. Usually their parents arranged marriage for their daughters. The unmarried girl might have not even met her intended. I can only say that I'm glad things are different today.

Lady Isabelle is a young noblewoman and her step mother has arranged for her to marry Sir Thomas Neville. They have made the trip to Sir Neville's castle in Pembroke. Things haven't gone well as both Lady Margerat and Lady Isabelle are attacked by angry peasants as they neared Sir Thomas's castle. Lord Neville takes justice into his own hands and has two of the attackers hang . He has forced Lady Isabelle to watch and at her request to spare a girl he orders his guard to cut off the peasant's hand.

Lady Isabelle finds Sir Thomas to be cruel and heartless and she decides to run away to escape her upcoming wedding to him. She gets lost in the forest and is half dead when a young and handsome peasant finds her and arranges for her care until she recovers. Cole Warwick, her rescuer finds Lady Isabelle to be very beautiful and he is attracted to her. He hates nobility and hasn't any idea who she really is.

As the story unfolds both Issy as she is now called and Cole spend a lot of time together. As she is recovering Sir Thomas Neville never stops searching for her and should he discover her with the peasants he will charge the entire community of abducting her and the consequences will be horrible.



I found this to be a very heart warming story . I had no trouble being drawn into this story from the first chapter. It definitely was a page turner. I have never been disappointed with any of Jody Hedlund's books that I've read. It's the first time I've read anything in this genre and probably won't be the last. This book would be good for young adults or adults of any age. It was a clean read which I liked. It is part of a series but can be read as a stand alone. I was very fortunate to win a signed copy of this book from a giveaway given by the author. I wasn't asked to do a review but was more than happy to do so since I loved the story. All comments are my own thoughts on the book. I highly recommend it.

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## **Holly says**

Surprise surprise! Jody has given us another heart melting medieval romance. And like the last book, we didn't know it was coming!

We first meet Izzy in, A Loyal Heart, the fourth book in the series. I was indifferent to her then. She seemed timid against her sister's strength. In the beginning of this book I still didn't have strong feelings for her. I admit, it took me a good third of the way to really connect with her. The shifting point came at the end of chapter 7 with the quote, "I didn't want to leave until I had the chance to discover who I really was." For some reason that reminds me of the "remember who you are" line from The Lion King.

The romance between Izzy and Cole was a bit sweeter and less in your face than the other romances in the series. I feel like they even had less interactions as well. The pacing seemed slower too. That is until chapter 16 when everything just began to roll. I suppose that's how story pacing works, right? It's how you get drawn in. :D

By chapter 20 I was reading like the wind to find out how it ends. FYI, it ends good. This was a good one. Just what I needed. Seeing Izzy grow as a person, breaking free from her mentality of comparing herself to others, mainly her sister, was empowering. I believe we all go through times of comparison and discovering who we are. There's a line Izzy says near the end, "I had to learn to be myself." To which I say- Amen, sistah!

I received a copy of this book for my reading and reviewing pleasure. All opinions are my own.

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## **Kristin says**

A Worthy Rebel is the fifth book in the An Uncertain Choice series. To my knowledge, this is the conclusion of the series but I sure wouldn't complain if the author put out five more.

I've said it each time that "this one was my favorite" and yet, I feel that way once again. This author consistently publishes books that make me fall in love with new characters. I'm then convinced that the latest book is the best book when they're **ALL** the best.

I don't know how many times I've read a review and I practically screamed at the blogger to tell me why he/she loved the book rather than singing the praises. Yet, here I am doing the same. So, I'm going to try really hard to tone down my enthusiasm and share what I loved about this book.

I love the characters in this book. The girls are not completely helpless and the men are not perfect. These characters have flaws and imperfections that I can relate to. Each of them has their own challenges that they have to face in both their personal and spiritual relationships.

The social situations, much like today, have room for improvement and the author tackles issues such as poverty, starvation and differences in social classes. Issues that are still relevant.

The lessons that we can learn from these characters are valuable. Learning to let God use us exactly where He has placed us in life. No matter if we have a little or a lot—our love for God and our neighbors is what truly matters in life. Not only can these characters teach us to allow God to use us for His glory, but they also remind us that we are valuable to Him.

These novellas are more than just a sweet romance for young (or in my case, old) ladies. They are sweet romances full of godly wisdom, breathtaking action and just the right amount of humor.

I truly wish that I could think of something borderline negative to say about this book as to lend this review credibility. I just can't think of a negative thing to say.

If you love a sweet, Christian romance with a Robin Hood feel, this book, this entire series, is one that you should consider.

**This book was provided to me by The Publisher. I was not required to write a positive review, and have not been compensated for this. All opinions are my own.**

**Note:** Kristin reads and reviews both Christian and secular fiction on A Simply Enchanted Life. Out of respect for my readers, I am including a content review. This content review will help you decide whether this book is suitable for you.

**Christian or Secular:** Christian

**ASEL Rating:** Mild: due to violence (though no detailed description), or other content to be aware of.

**Suggested Age:** 12+

Profanity: None

Sex: None

Violence: mild violence, a girl has her hand chopped off

Drugs & Alcohol: None

Trigger Warning: None

A Worthy Rebel is book #5 in An Uncertain Choice series by Jody Hedlund. Other books in the series include The Vow (#0.5), An Uncertain Choice (#1), A Daring Sacrifice (#2), and For Love and Honor (#3) and A Loyal Heart (#4).

This review originally posted on A Simply Enchanted Life

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## **Nicki Chapelway says**

I have loved this entire series, any ya medieval book written by Jody Hedlund, I will read. And I've heard that this is supposed to be the last book in this series, but I hope Hedlund decides to write more young adult

books.

It was so fun to see Izzy get her own story and stop living in the shadow of her sister. As much as I love Olivia, I've always had a soft spot for the younger sisters. And I was so pleased to see Cecil again! I love him to pieces.

This is probably my least favorite book of the series, though I enjoyed it immensely. And I think it was because of Cole. He was an okay hero, but I didn't really connect with him. I really liked Posy and Thea though.

On a whole, this book- this entire series- is so good, sweeping and dramatic and romantic. I'm serious, go read all of them.

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

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### **Susan Snodgrass says**

'Anger leads to hatred, and hatred gives birth to violence. Once born, violence has an appetite that cannot be sated.'

Jody Hedlund's fifth offering in her 'An Uncertain Choice' series is the best yet, in my opinion. Lady Isabelle is being firmly coerced into marrying an evil landowner. She knows she must marry to save her lands and people, but has great misgiving about Sir Thomas. After meeting him and witnessing one instance of his cruelty, she is determined never to marry him. With the help of her loyal manservant, she escapes, but becomes separated from him and is badly injured. She is discovered by Cole, a peasant who fights the nobility for just treatment. Cole takes her home with him to recover and be treated by his mother, who is a healer. Isabelle has never paid a lot of attention to the lower class but now she is coming face to face with the injustices heaped upon these kind people. Will she do what she should to help them or will she return to her life of leisure?

I have been a Jody Hedlund fan since her first book years ago. I anticipate that I will always be a fan, too. She writes very well, and her medieval stories are my favorites. I was completely caught up in this story and finished it in less than a day. Well done! Highly recommended.

(My thanks to the author and publisher for a copy of this book. The opinions stated here are entirely my own.)

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