



Holding Court

K.C. Held

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Sixteen-year-old Jules Verity knows exactly what's in store at her new job at castle-turned-dinner-theater Tudor Times. Some extra cash, wearing a fancy-pants dress, and plenty of time to secretly drool over the ever-so-tasty--and completely unavailable--Grayson Chandler. Except that it's not quite what she imagined.

For one, the costume Jules has to wear is awful. Then there's the dead body she finds that just kind of...well, disappears. Oh, and there's the small issue of Jules and her episodes of what her best friend calls "Psychic Tourette's Syndrome"--spontaneous and uncontrollable outbursts of seemingly absurd prophecies.

The only bright side? This whole dead body thing seems to have gotten Grayson's attention. Except that the more Jules investigates, the more she discovers that Grayson's interest might not be as courtly as she thought. In fact, it's starting to look suspicious...

Holding Court Details

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Author : K.C. Held

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Genre : Young Adult, Mystery, Contemporary, Romance

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From Reader Review Holding Court for online ebook

Samantha says

Ohmigosh, this book made me so giddy with happiness! I'm pretty sure my cheeks are going to be sore from smiling and laughing so much.

Let me be fair by saying I am obsessed with two things that feature prominently in the book - the Tudor family and The Princess Bride. I've also always wanted to work in one of those old-timey places where you get to wear a costume and play someone else for tourists. So, really, this book had me from the description.

Poor Jules Verity has an unfortunate gift for prophecy. It sounds like such a cool thing, right? Being able to prophesize the future? Except, she more blurts out sentences that seem nonsensical and appear at the worst of times (which her BFF dubs Psychic Tourette's Syndrome). As hard as she tries to control it, she can't seem to stop blurting silly things for no reason. This makes her absolutely perfect for a summer job at the Tudor Times, where she'll play a nun who also had a gift for prophecy and was known for babbling nonsense. Even better, Jules' crush, Grayson works at the castle, too. Seems perfect--until Jules stumbles over (literally) the dead body of a girl in a secret passageway, only to have that body disappear as Jules runs for help.

This book combines mystery, romance, and humor. I honestly didn't want it to end, and even cursed my already long commute for not being longer when it came to having to put it down at my stop. Jules is a hilarious MC, and I can't but feel bad for her and all of her embarrassing moments. Grayson is totally swoon-worthy, and I don't blame Jules one bit for her crush--even if Grayson does have a longtime girlfriend. Oops.

I highly recommend this to anyone who wants a laugh-out-loud YA with a bit of a mystery/thriller vibe thrown in.

LOVE.

*** Thank you to NetGalley and Entangled for the eARC in exchange for an honest review***

Carrie says

Sixteen year old Jules Verity has a family that each have different gifts, or curses depending on how you look at it. Her grandmother can see auras and has used the ability to set up her own matchmaking service. Her mother can touch any object and tell the authenticity so has her own antique shop. However Jules doesn't have control over her ability, it seems she's psychic but it comes as blurting out random sayings that make little to no sense at the time thus her best friend Cami has dubbed the ability "Psychic Tourette's Syndrome".

Jules like any other sixteen year old with a brand new drivers license wants her own car so she decides to get a summer job at Tudor Times, a dinner theater in a castle where Jules thinks she's applying to be a fair maiden but ends up playing a crazy psychic nun the Mad Maid of Kent which fits Jules Psychic Tourettes quite perfectly. Other than embarrassment from her long time crush Grayson seeing her as a nun, Jules should have found herself the perfect job, that is until she stumbles into a secret passage and finds a dead body.

Holding Court is just a fun, light-hearted book that was just too cute for words. I completely enjoyed everything about this story. The setting had me from the start as it reminded me of a place I have actually been to called Medieval Times near Chicago. But Jules was just adorable with her blurting out the most random things at the most inopportune times that it had me giggling all the way through the pages.

The book can be best described as a young adult cozy mystery with a tad bit of romance thrown into the mix. Jules has a crush on Grayson but the main focus of the story is the fact Jules had found a body and no one seems to believe her due to her outbursts. She takes investigating into her own hands and embarks on one hilarious adventure.

Overall, great fun read that I'd definitely recommend checking out.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress....>

Nicole says

First things first: I received an ARC of this book through NetGalley.
The book comes out March 1st. GO CHECK IT OUT!!!!

I'm so glad I stumbled upon this book. The cover immediately made me wanna read it. The story sounded pretty interesting too.

The book is about Jules, 16 years old, blessed or well cursed with PTS (Psychic Tourette's Syndrome), it's the way her best friend Cami calls her spontaneous and uncontrollable prophecies that Jules keeps shouting in other people's faces. Jules is looking for a summer job, and finds an add in the newspaper for a job at a castle. She imagines she can dress up in beautiful dresses. Instead her job is to be the crazy nun. Also on her first day at work, she finds a dead body. And the mystery begins.

I love Jules as a main character. It's been a while since I read someone so fun. There were some lines in there that actually made me laugh out loud. At the same time she has a lot of insecurities, thinking that everyone assumes she is just a freak because she has these weird outburst. I just found her to be really lovable and overall really well written.

The story also had amazing characters. I loved Jules friendship with Cami and the relationship she had with her grandma (she's one amazing character. So many great lines. Such a fun personality.)

Something that I also really enjoyed was the love triangle. Uh, I know. Another one of those. But I loved how this one was written. How Bree wasn't the typical "other girl" that was mean and not likeable at all. Cause I loved Bree. And I really loved all the little revelations at the end of the book. So well handled. SO GREAT.

The writing in the book was amazing. It was such a fun and easy read. I loved the setting. I loved the mystery. I never got to the point where I just didn't care anymore who killed who. So I'm giving this book all the stars and I'm telling you all to pick up this book and reading. It's so entertaining.

Rachel Harris says

Completely delightful! I honestly can't remember the last time I had this much fun reading. HOLDING COURT is the perfect blend of laugh-out-loud hijinks and butterfly-inducing romance. I didn't want it to end!

Irena says

Written in the first person, Holding Court follows a girl named Jules, who is „cursed“ with what she likes to call „Psychic Tourette's Syndrome“.

If you're confused just like I was and wonder what that could be, let me explain it to you: from time to time, **Julie**, uncontrollably, blurbs out what will happen to someone in the future, but she tells that pretty much in codes. Overall, the whole thing makes her a weirdo in other people's eyes.

She's not the only one with the gift. Her grandmother can see other people's auras and her mother can tell authenticity of an object with a single touch.

One summer, to make some money and save enough to buy herself a car, sixteen years old Jules gets a job in a place called Tudor Times.

Fun fact: **Grayson**, the guy she has a crush for years works there.

Funnier fact: her girlfriend **Bree** also works there.

Jules knew not everything will be roses and butterflies, but what she couldn't even dream about was that, while exploring secret chambers of her workplace, she would find a dead body...

First thing I have to warn you about: **there are some illogical happenings through the story**.

If you are a critical reader you'll probably find its flaws and they could put you off when it comes to finishing this story.

However, I think it is only fair of me to tell you how, if you can play blind to those flaws, you will probably end up really enjoying yourself while reading.

Yes, the main character does swoon over the guy while she should be worried about the killer and about her own sake.

Yes, the story does have a love triangle (that is, let me make that clear, a really good love triangle).

Yes, the character does not act the smartest way possible at some scenes, but...

The writing style is so good, it makes **you want to devour the story in one sitting**.

The more pages you read, the plot is more and more interesting, characters are more and more likeable, the mystery is more and more mysterious.

I also have to emphasize that I didn't see who the killer was.
Of course, I had my own suspicion, but I was wrong.

And now, let me tell you what I liked the most about this book: Love triangle.
At first, I thought about giving this book a lower rating, but what made me really appreciate this novel is the love triangle in it and the way it resolved in the end.
Maybe some would call it naive or unbelievable, but I like to call it refreshing.
I have never before read the story in which all love interests wrap up the way they did here, and it never even crossed my mind that someday it would be great to read the story with that kind of result.
Just because of that, K.C. Held deserves an extra applause.

Overall, this is an easy, quick read with a great atmosphere, perfect for spring or summer when you want to read something entertaining and cute.

The writing style is enjoyable, the story has something different to offer when it comes to love interest and the very last chapter is the best chapter in the whole book, which made me appreciate this piece.

I gladly recommend it!

Note: I got this book for free via Netgalley in an exchange for an honest review. Thank you EntangledTeen.

Read this and more reviews on my blog: <http://bookdustmagic.wordpress.com>

Heather Petty says

I love this book so much. It's the perfect mix of everything I love: charming, hilarious characters; a super-smart, clue-filled puzzle to solve ; and a spooky, mysterious castle filled with people in costumes. The pining romance left me gasping. The mystery left me gasping. I basically didn't breathe for like the last half of the book. (I might have snuck a breath or two... so I could finish reading before death.)

And Juliet's family is amazing. I love her mother and grandmother so much. I may start a letter-writing campaign to get a sequel just so I can spend more time with everyone.

Everyone should have this book on their 2016 TBR piles!

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Entangled Publishing, LLC and NetGalley.)

“Mermaids blush when clothes unmake the man!”

This was a YA mystery story, about a girl who had sudden psychic premonitions.

Juliet was a cute character, and her little outbursts were quite funny. She seemed to be really intent on finding out what had happened to the missing dead body she discovered, although she seemed a bit clueless at times!

The storyline in this was about Juliet getting a new job, and discovering a dead body in a secret passage that then went missing! This was an enjoyable read, although the pace was a little slow in places.

The ending to this was pretty good, and I was happy with the way things were resolved. Things did seem a little unrealistic on the romance front though.

6.25 out of 10

Beth says

Holding Court is a cute teen romance.

Jules is “cursed” with premonitions that seem more like a serious case of Tourette’s. She randomly blurts strange and unusual conflagrations of words making her an outcast at school and difficult to keep a job. When Jules gets hired as the fortune teller at the local mid-evil reenactment castle it might be the perfect place to really put her talents to use until someone turns up dead.

It seems, no matter how hard Jules tries, everything she touches just goes wrong...But extremely funny and outrageously wrong.

A murder, a mystery and a high school crush, you have all the makings of a very teen romance. Overall, enjoyable, I found the pace a little slow but made up for in outlandish humor. This story is truly written with the younger romance reader at heart.

I received this ARC copy of *Holding Court* from Entangled Publishing, LLC - Teen in exchange for a honest review. This book is set for publication March 1, 2016.

My Rating: 4 Stars

Written by: K. C. Held

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Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Holding-Court-K...>

Barnes & Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/holdi...>

Bekah (WillBakeforBooks) says

I knew I was going to love this book when I started laughing at the very first sentence. I thought to myself, “This is going to be one of my favorite authors.” Before I go into all the wonderful reasons of why I adored this book, let me tell you a little bit about what it’s about.

Juliet “Jules” Verity has always considered herself a freak, thanks to her annoying habit of uncontrollably spewing crazy-sounding prophecies at random. It’s made a lot of things in her life very difficult — such as trying to find a normal job or speaking with her longtime crush Grayson Chandler. Jules is out of a job for the summer when her mother has to close down her antique shop for a temporary job in Paris. So when her bestie Cami finds a job listing at the interactive castle theater called Tudor Times for the part of psychic Maid of Kent, she reluctantly applies because she’s desperate to buy a car since her grandma’s hot pink golf cart is her only motorized choice for transport. Little does she know that her unavailable crush works there, the Mad Maid of Kent is a crazy nun, and that she’ll find a dead body that disappears and leads her into investigating a murder no one believes her about.

“I so wish I could read his mind. Because part of me wonders...I give myself a little shake. *Get real, Jules.* Taylor Swift said it best, Bree’s the cheer captain and I’m on the bleachers.”

Ah! This book had everything I look for in a young adult contemporary. Witty and charming characters, crazy funny dialogue, easy writing style, a story that makes you read through the night, and did I mention lots of laughs?! Add to that romance filled with hilariously awkward moments, mystery involving castle intrigue and dashing knights (or should I say, *squights*), and lovable family and side characters that made me crack up. Jules’ prophetic gift made for a unique approach to the genre and it ended up being one of my favorite aspects of the book. Jules and Grayson also made it to my OTP list — their mutual love of The Princess Bride was oh-so-cute. The mystery was great — usually I can predict whodunits immediately, but I only guessed around halfway through. I am in shock that this is the author’s debut novel. Please, I need more!! Her writing style really reminded me of one of my favorite authors ever, Jenny B. Jones. All I can say is that K.C. Held has made me a forever fan with Holding Court!

If you enjoy laughing, you will enjoy this new YA. *wink* Seriously though, it was adorably hilarious and I savored every moment. Totally recommended for those who like the YA contemporary genre.

See full review and more on my blog: <http://www.willbakeforbooks.com/2016/...>

Kassandra says

2.5 stars. This was cute, if frivolous and just an "alright" little story.

99% of the writing was either dialogue or Juliet's thoughts (basically unspoken dialogue), so I would have appreciated more detailed writing about the other characters and the setting, as well as *backstory*. I wanted to know more about Juliet's family's psychic history! Their powers! This book is so short, it could have really benefited from more of *anything*.

Also, while the humor came off as charming and quirky at first (loved the Princess Bride quips), I thought there could have been more tact when it came to the nun bits. Like, nuns are pretty cool people. I'm not even Catholic, but I just thought the early jokes lacked taste and will definitely offend some people.

Totally called the ending regarding Bree, by the way. Wish that could have been explored a little for the sake of character development. But like I said, I wish *anything* had been explored a little bit more.

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Rê says

4.5 "I fell in love with the protagonist" STARS

ARC via NetGalley.

Thank you, Entangled!

Full review also on the blog: <https://t.co/FxyQR1HZCw>

First thing I'll say about this is I started and finished it in one day. A Friday. I could've gone out with my friends or gone with my husband to a nice restaurant... or even started partying since it's Carnaval this weekend, but nope. I chose to stay home and finish this book because I fell in love with Jules.

When that happens, don't expect me to step away until there are no more words to read. Then, I end up feeling both happy and sad. I guess every bookworm knows the feeling. And while I was thrilled to get to know Jules, I was sad to have to let her go.

You should come meet Jules -- a.k.a Juliet Verity a.k.a Buttercup a.k.a my new BFF. A super awesome sixteen-year-old who comes from a line of eccentric women with special "gifts." Her grandmother, for example, can see people's auras and find their perfect match. And while her grandmother and her mother have found ways to turn their gifts into something profitable for the family, Jules is still going through the "I'm a freak" phase. It sure doesn't help that her gift isn't making being a teenager any easy. According to Jules' very funny best friend, the poor girl suffers from "Psychic Tourette's Syndrome". What's that? Out of nowhere, Jules will yell some absurd prophecy that makes no sense at the time, but later turns out to be helpful. Sounds pretty cool, except when you're trying to keep people from thinking you're batshit crazy.

But you know where being batshit crazy is cool and profitable? At the castle-turned-dinner-theater Tudor Times where everyone dresses up and pretends to be someone else. Jules is hired to play the part of Mad Maid of Kent (a psychic num), which means she's practically getting paid to be herself. Pretty good, huh? What makes it even better is that she'll get to spend time with her longtime crush and now coworker, Grayson Chandler.

It'd be the perfect job if it weren't for the dead body she found. The same body that disappeared minutes later, leaving everyone wondering if Jules really saw it or if this was just another part of her psychic gift. Only way to find out? Teaming up with Grayson and searching for the dead girl and her murderer. That's when the adventure began.

While the whole Tudor vibe and the mystery about the missing body made the story unique and interesting, Jules was the most special element in this as far as I was concerned. You can call her a special snowflake, if you want... I honestly don't care, because I connected with her from the start.

Jules was funny, like make-me-laugh-out-loud-a-lot funny. Her logic was spot on and her sense of humor was refreshing:

“That brings up an interesting point, Miss Verity. You’re the only one who’s seen Sarah Buckley dead.”

“Uh, no. I’m pretty sure whoever killed her and moved her body saw her, too.”

Like, dude, she was hilarious.

Jules stood firmly against slut shaming. Grayson was in a relationship with Bree, the most perfect girl in town, but every time Jules talked about her “rival”, she did it in a way that made you respect her even more:

Bree Blair is so perfect you can’t even hate her properly.

She (Bree) envelops me in a rose-scented hug. She doesn’t just look perfect, she smells good, too. I should hate her. But I can’t.

And don’t expect Jules to get involved with someone else’s boyfriend, because she’s not up for that kind of crap:

“Cami, I’m serious. I will never be Bree Blair, and I’m not going to be the kind of girl who goes after someone else’s boyfriend, either.”

I highlighted another part that proves the point above (“You’d better go call Bree” – can’t say more because

of spoilers) while reading and added “YES, YES, YES!” as my notes. Honestly, I’m so tired of people treating cheating like it’s not a big deal, and I was so, so happy that Jules wasn’t of one them.

I guess what I’m saying is I fell hard for Jules, so I completely understand the big secret revealed at the end. It makes perfect sense to me. *shrugs*

The romance wasn’t as big as I normally like it, but with the search for the missing girl and the mystery involving the possible murder taking much of everyone’s time, it was understandable that they had to keep the romance as a subplot. Plus, this is being sold as YA mystery and not YA romance, so...

I’m sure there will be reviews complaining about historical inconsistencies (not saying there’s a problem with the book, but there’s always someone complaining about that), but (again) I don’t care. I didn’t request this book because of the historical references and I’m not quoting anything from a fiction with history as a subplot when discussing important historical facts, so yeah... there’s that.

This book delivered what it promised and a little more: a fun, sweet YA contemporary story with great mystery, a good romance and a main character that made my list of characters I want to be friends with.

Rhea Dsouza says

I don’t think I can thank Entangled Teen enough for tossing this book my way! *Holding Court* might very well be the cutest, funniest YA Contemporary Mystery that has come out so far this year!

Holding Court follows one summer in the life of sixteen year old Jules Verity. With her mom gone away due to a job, Jules decides to take up a job at the “castle-turned-dinner-theatre” Tudor Times. She hopes to wear fancy dresses and have a little extra in the cookie jar. Of course, there’s the tiny incentive of getting to see Grayson Chandler, her long time crush. Except, nothing goes quite as she planned because her costume is a pain in the MFA, and Grayson’s girlfriend is *so damned nice*, that Jules feels bad drooling over him. And then, there’s the issue of her having discovered a dead body while on the job.

Jules a completely normal teenager with all the normal teenager melodrama and eye-rolling, except for the fact that she blurts out nonsensical prophecies at the most inopportune moments. Jules’ best friend refers to this problem as “Psychic Tourette’s Syndrome,” and man, she’s so right! Jules’ “prophecies” make absolutely no sense, watching her sometimes shout it out in peoples’ faces made me cringe for her. Juliet was a very cute character, and she’s exactly the type of person whom you would want to be best friends with! Basically, this girl made every part of the book completely laugh out loud worthy!

The mystery around the dead girl Jules discovers, her seemingly absurd prophecies, and the entire concept of Tudor Times was brilliant! I love how everything was tied up neatly by the end, and there’s no doubt that the book was very, very well constructed. The setting and the costumes especially added to the cute/funny/creepy aura that the book created, and what’s even more interesting is that Jules was not the only person with gifts! I loved to see her stumbling around, though, and the author has exceptionally good comic timing :)

The writing in *Holding Court* is what really impresses. It is a debut, but it most definitely does not read like one. I loved the romance—it’s super spoilery, so no talking about it—but it was so swoony! There wasn’t too much of it, what with PEOPLE DYING and everything and so it took a backseat, but I almost prefer it

that way. It made the book all the more realistic. *Holding Court* is a kind of book you don't want to see end—I certainly didn't—and I'm definitely recommending it to you if you love fluff and humour with your mysterious dead bodies!

I was provided a free earc of this book by Entangled Teen through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This did not in any way, however, influence the content of this review.

Alycia says

Amazon has the pb for just \$7! Go snag it quick! Veronica Mars meets Awkward. Hilarious and fun!

Jaclyn says

"Who told you to say that?"

"What? No one. I have a blurting problem. It happens more when I'm nervous. Like now. My friend Cami calls it Psychic Tourette's Syndrome. PTS for short. I call it mortifying."

The Good

This was such a funny and cute story. The characters are wonderful. Jules Verity comes from a family in which the women all exhibit some sort of power. Her quirky grandmother runs a matchmaking company called The Aura of Romance with her ability to read auras and she drives a pink golf cart around town with advertisements plastered on it. Her mom has the ability to tell the history of an object by touching it. Jules is the best though. She randomly blurts out psychic premonitions that often sound more loony than accurate. For example, "Be alert to the squirt and smell the ketchup!".

Jules finds the best job for her possible as the Mad Maid of Kent at Tudor Times. It's a place for people to visit where everything is set in the time of King Henry the VIII. The Mad Maid of Kent is known to be a crazy psychic so it works quite well. This setting made for some interesting dialogue as well as unique weapons and storing places for bodies. The story is a mystery. She finds a dead body on her first day of work and rolls on from there with Jules investigating.

The Bad

While I'm sure there were flaws with the story, I didn't notice them. This was just what I needed at the time.

The Romance

Jules has had a crush on Grayson for quite some time. I like how in this one, Grayson has a girlfriend that Jules loves. She thinks Bree is one of the best people she's ever met, and I have to agree that she's pretty great. This sets up an interesting dynamic, and I'm glad about how everything worked out in the end.

Conclusion

Holding Court is a very funny, cute read. I laughed quite a lot while reading it. The characters are wonderful and the romance is charming. The setting at Tudor Times makes for a fun environment with interesting dialogue and the mystery of the dead bodies makes for a great who-done-it plot. Definitely recommended.

Sent for honest review through Netgalley

jv poore says

Holding Court
by k.c. held

I can honestly say I've never read anything quite like Holding Court. I cannot tell you what it is 'about'. You wouldn't believe me. It simply shouldn't work. Like sea salt on chocolate. Makes no sense. Those things do not go together. And yet....I thoroughly enjoyed the unprecedented coalescence of young love, psychics, pseudo-theatre, mystery and murder.

There's a lot to consider as a sixteen year old girl looking for a summer job to buy a car. For example, are there any openings where the guy you've adored from afar since sixth grade works? As well as, what are the chances of stumbling upon a corpse that vanishes while on the job?

Being raised in a non-traditional family—specifically three generations of women, each with a unique psychic ability and completely unique feelings regarding said ability—requires a young person to develop a thicker skin and create coping mechanisms. Jules' grandmother who "has chosen to share her gift with the world in the most obnoxious way possible" and constantly quotes Eleanor Roosevelt is like the whipped cream on already decadent dessert. While her mom keeps her own psychic ability under wraps, she is furiously and ferociously protective of her daughter, having zero qualms about calling Jules' boss to "remind him that (she) will eviscerate him" should anything happen to her daughter on his watch.

While the atypical family creates a solid foundation, the teen-aged characters build the story with their refreshing honesty and biting sarcasm paired with quick wit and an admirable vocabulary. For me, the absolute, very best, cooler-than-the-other-side-of-the-pillow, part is the reminder that we rarely know what other people think of us. To be more accurate, we honestly do not know what someone else is thinking period—not for sure—no matter how well we know a person. It is easy to project our doubts and insecurities, to assume that someone (or everyone) sees us in a particular way or will have a specific pre-determined reaction to an event. Most often, though, the truth is surprising. Like my beloved 8th grade Algebra teacher patiently explained: "Don't assume. You make an "ass" out of "u" and "me"."

This review was written for Buried Under Books by jv poore.
