

**Cruel Prince, The  
Holly Black**

**Reviewed by: Paufa Phanachet, 15**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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When she was seven, Jude Duarte saw her parents murdered before her eyes. She was whisked away to be raised by her parents' murderer, the Faerie commander, Madoc. As a mortal child in the Faerie Court, Jude was ostracized by her peers and yearned to earn her place at court. The chance arrived when Prince Dayne, next-in-line for the throne of Faerie, enlists her as a spy in his court of shadows. As the upcoming coronation brings forth new intrigue and conspiracies, Jude quickly discovers her capacity of trickery and bloodshed to protect herself, her sisters, and perhaps even the entirety of Faerie.

I loved the trickery and twists in this book. For a race that cannot lie, the fae are extremely deceitful. The twists and turns in the book surprised me at every point. The characters are all very rich and complex. None of them were completely likeable, but all of them were fascinating. Their motives and characters were extraordinarily multifaceted and I could spend hours discussing the characters alone. The beginning was a little slow, but once the story got going it was amazing.

This book is probably best for teenagers and up. The book begins with a bloody murder of the protagonist's parents and continues with plenty of violence, but generally not too graphic. There is a suicide of a minor character and extreme bullying that almost kills the protagonist. This book can be either borrowed from the library or given as a gift since it is interesting enough to reread, but should be given with the sequels as it doesn't quite resolve itself into a neat package.

**Recommendations:**

- The Wicked King by Holly Black
- The Iron Trials by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare
- Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo
- A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas
- Cinder by Marissa Meyer