

Wicked King, The

Holly Black

Reviewed by: Paufa Phanachet, 15

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

www.bethestaryouare.org

Jude Duarte has secured her place as the power behind the throne for the next two years, but the clock is ticking down fast. As the king's Seneschal, she is theoretically King Carden's most trusted advisor, but in reality Carden is bound to her every command. However, her relationship with the reluctant king begins to disintegrate, even as their strange attraction grows. Jude scrambles to maintain her power while also guarding Carden from the dangers both inside and outside the Faerie court.

As with the rest of the series, the characters are the highlight of this book. Jude's relationship with her family grows even more complex as she has thwarted her adoptive father's plans and they now exist in an unstable equilibrium. Jude and Carden also have this incredible relationship where they try to build trust with Jude's power over Carden looming over their heads. Her motivations and plans are so interesting and complex it is unlike any other book I have read before. The plot is great with many surprising turns. The ending was so good. It is a perfect set up for the finale of this awesome trilogy.

This book is probably best given with the rest of the series. I think this book is worth several rereads. However, giving it as a standalone kind of defeats the purpose of the gift. If I wanted only one book from the series, this would not be it. This book is probably best for 14 year olds and up. The book can get quite dark and there are a few questionable scenes.

Recommendations:

- Queen of Nothing by Holly Black
- The Traitor's Game by Jennifer A. Nielsen
- Frostblood by Elly Blake
- The False Prince by Jennifer A. Nielsen
- Carve the Mark by Veronica Roth