



The Medievalist

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Aspiring historian Jayne Lyons has pinned her career hopes on proving that her ancestor, King Richard III, is innocent of the murder of the Princes in the Tower. While volunteering at the search for his missing grave, she is cast back into the brutal 15th century, in the middle of Richard's army camp.

As Jane realizes she may not be able to return home, she adjusts to her new life and finds herself falling for Richard, and becoming his mistress. She even starts entertaining the hope of saving him.

But the Princes are missing, and all evidence points to Richard. When he asks her to spy for him against his enemy, Henry Tudor, she must decide whether to help the man she loves, even though he may be one of history's greatest villains.

The Medievalist Details

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From Reader Review The Medievalist for online ebook

Emma says

3.5 stars. I was going to give 4 but there a few historical inaccuracies that I couldn't get past especially as they would be easy to find out like the correct age of Richard when Bosworth happened.

Jessie B says

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book.

Historian Jane Lyons has been having recurring nightmares about her distant ancestor King Richard III for years. She has dedicated her academic career to finding evidence to prove that Richard did not in fact murder his young nephews-the Princes in the Tower-as is commonly believed. When she is presented with the opportunity to volunteer at the archeological dig site of Richard's recently discovered grave in a car park in Leicester, England, she jumps at the chance. Perhaps here she will find the evidence she has been searching for.

Instead, Jayne finds a silver boar artifact that when held in her hands, somehow transports her back in time to the fifteenth-century. In the next instance she finds herself in the middle of a chaotic medieval camp, and soon finds herself face to face with the flesh and blood man she has spent years studying. Jayne must learn to navigate the dangers of the past in order to survive in King Richard III's traveling army camp. After her path continues to cross with that of the king, she and Richard soon enter into a romantic relationship. But as she falls further in love, Jayne worries if she will ever return home again, and if she will be able to stomach the truth of Richard's guilt or innocence. Is the man she is falling for indeed the infamous murderer maligned by history?

I was disappointed in Jayne as a heroine. I didn't find her dynamic and didn't understand her motives much of the time. I finished reading feeling as if I didn't know her well enough, especially considering all the time we spent together. I was hoping to read more about Jayne's difficulties in adjusting to the fifteenth-century. Instead, she seemed to almost breeze through the cultural differences and to automatically fit in with those around her.

I did like the fact that the narrative switched back and forth between Jayne and Richard's perspectives. Having them both as narrators definitely enhanced the emotional drama of the novel and heightened the stakes. Ultimately however, I felt that all the characters could have been fleshed out more. I bought that Richard and Jayne were "in lust" with each other, but not that they were in love.

I think this novel suffered a bit from a reliance on "telling vs. showing." The writing could've been stronger if Lacy had let readers observe some of the drama unfolding instead of simply having her characters relay information. Some of the dialogue felt rather stilted as well. Along the same lines, I thought The Medievalist was lacking a bit in descriptive elements.

Overall, I found The Medievalist to be an entertaining-if not noteworthy-read. This book had potential but was lacking the depth needed to make it a great read. I did find it fun to escape to the fifteenth-century for a few hours and this was an easy book to breeze through. Readers who enjoy time-slip novels, historical

fiction, and the medieval period may find something to appreciate in this novel as well.

A huge thank you to NetGalley and City Owl press for the opportunity to read and review this ARC in exchange for an honest review

Full review: <https://dwellinpossibilityblog.wordpress.com/2017/07/10/review-the-medievalist-by-ashley-hall/>

Monica says

Who doesn't love a good time travel novel where the heroine gets to meet and fall in love with a famous king from the past. What was interesting about this novel was that Jayne travels back from the site in 2012 where they found King Richard's body. King Richard III's body was really found in 2012. I love when an author can incorporate real history even into a novel that is essentially fantasy. Jayne then travels back in time determined to prove that her ancestor King Richard III did not murder her nephews. She has suffered from nightmares all her life and wants to prove that he did not do it. She awakens on a field and is taken for a whore because she is only wearing a nightgown. Shortly after she finds herself in the presence of King Richard and her adventure begins.

In any time travel novel there are going to be some issues that an author can either address or ignore. Jayne had no trouble understanding or speaking with the people. No one found her weird or unusual. She had no trouble adapting to the dress, food or customs of the time. To me this is of course unbelievable. No one especially a women from the 21st century could adapt to the 15th century so easily. However these details did not distract from the story. This was a very enjoyable and fast read. I love historical fiction and I also read a lot of time travel novels. I found this book interesting and the author did a nice job incorporating real history. I look forward to reading more from this author. I won this novel in a Kindle Goodreads Giveaway and I am very thankful that I did.

Marissa says

The Medievalist is a historical fiction romance novel that takes features the time of King Richard III. Jayne, the female lead, is an historian and distant relative of King Richard. The story opens with Jayne at an archaeological dig site where the king is buried in present day. Jayne comes across one of the king's heirlooms, a silver boar, and, upon touching it, time travels back to Richard's time. Without a means to get back to present day, she finds herself adapting to her new surroundings while trying to unlock the mysteries of King Richard and clearing his name of his nephews' murder. During her journey, she winds up becoming the king's mistress. Readers are also presented to other noted historical figures of the time - Elizabeth of Woodville, Henry Tudor, and Anne Neville among others. Jayne and Richard's relationship was a bit awkward. It was hard for me to believe that they truly loved each other as opposed to just lusted over each other. There was little to no development of their relationship. I didn't really find myself connecting with Jayne as a leading character. It seemed like she just didn't care at times that she was stuck back in time. The author seemed to gloss over a lot of the historical details of the time. I felt like this was a good idea in concept, but the execution could have used some work.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Kari says

I'm giving this book the benefit of the doubt with 4 stars. I'd say it was a 3.5, really. In sum, it's Outlander with a five hundred year gap, instead of two hundred years. I enjoyed the writing; the descriptions were fun. Starting with the discovery of Richard III's remains in that car park in Leicester was great, because I studied abroad there that year. It was an easy read; three hours or so. It covered a lot of ground; more than a year in the 15th century (1482-4). All that said, it needed to be fleshed out more. Why did the silver boar only work for her? Would it bring her back so she could live that time over and over again? What else motivated Talbott? And Bess? There were a lot of characters that were only half way fleshed out, and there should either have been fewer characters that were the focus, or the book should have been longer to flesh out all the characters that were in it. The plot seemed to move at an ok pace; not real fast, but not snail's pace either. About the timing, my complaint is that the author skipped months to move the plot along, and while I understand that for length's sake, she couldn't articulate every single day, there should have been more than there was, because it felt more like the woman had been there for a month or two, not close to two years. I did enjoy the main character as a general rule; she did fall in love awfully fast though. She didn't whine much. I wanted more about how she adjusted to life in the 1480's though. That element was sorely lacking, I thought. Overall, good book. There's not many out there about Richard III, and especially not that put him in a decent light (he's the one that supposedly killed his nephews in the Tower, if you didn't know), so that part of the story was interesting and almost playful. There was an element of history being changed, which I enjoyed less so, but it's livable.

Joanne says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book - you do have to suspend disbelief a bit, but it's a time travel story, so that is no surprise. However, the descriptions of mediaeval England are excellent and really made me feel I was there with the heroine. I loved the character of Richard III - as I am a Ricardian it was great he wasn't shown as a murdering tyrant, but he did come across as strong, occasionally angry and human. I also liked the ending, which could be a little predictable, but is nevertheless satisfying.

Courtney says

Like many other people around the world, including this book's heroine, Jayne, I was mesmerized by the discovery of Richard III's body found buried under a Leicester parking lot. So, imagine my delight when I found this book while poking around on NetGalley looking for something to read. I adore a good time travel romance and was excited to read a new-to-me author. I received an Advanced Reader Copy in exchange for an honest review and, honestly, I liked it.

However, I gotta take away one star right off the bat because of the ending. This book needs to have a warning. Full Disclosure: THERE IS NO HAPPILY EVER AFTER. Which, to me also means that this is a work of historical fiction, heavy with romantic elements, but it is not a time-travel romance. Because, c'mon. I just invested myself in the life and love of two people and then feel like history, fate, whatever has let me down. When you're dealing with time-travel romance, you can change the past, present, and future meaning Richard and Jayne could have easily had their HEA. That they didn't is something future readers may want

to know ahead of time. Sure, Jayne did her part to change how Richard is viewed in her alternate future, but...they're not together.

The other star is taken away because of a few other issues and lingering questions. As many reviewers have pointed out, we never really find out why or how the boar sigil worked. What happened to the sigil after she returned? Why hadn't time passed when she returned? We don't get a recap of what happened to Bess, Lord Stanley, or the Greyfriars. I mean, yes, you can look it up, but it would have been nice to include the information. Also, by skipping over great chunks of time, the reader really is left wondering about how they spent all that time spent together, yet Richard gets easily upset when Jayne asks him probing questions or tries to learn more about him. Was it just lust or truly love? Is Jayne descended from Johnnie, which is why they got along so well? Or someone else? And, then there is my great pet peeve – she was pregnant from one night together. Le sigh.

So, emotional endings and my other issues aside, I enjoyed this book for several other, big, sweeping reasons. I enjoyed having a glimpse into 15th century England. I enjoyed the politics, battles, scheming, and alliances that form a tidy web and moved the plot along. I enjoyed that the book flips between Richard and Jayne's perspectives. And, I liked that you got a sense of the difficulties of life, particularly for women, during this time period. The limited clothing, bathing and sleeping habits, and religious feasts/celebrations were especially interesting. All of these fascinating tidbits were really the strongest point in the book for me, not the romance. Which, again, is why I think this is really, at it's heart, a work of historical fiction.

All that being said, if you're curious about the life and times of Richard III or were riveted by the news of a British monarch whose burial site was lost and found, by all means, give this book a read. I am sure that you'll enjoy it, too!

Anna Pittman says

Check out my other reviews, and more, at my blog [Read and Repeat!](#)

The Medievalist is a time-slip novel, featuring a historian who gets what every historian secretly dreams of--she gets to go back in time and meet the man she has studied for years: Richard III. (If you have no clue who that was, never fear, neither did I!) She is ripped out of the twenty first century and wakes up surrounded by the mostly gritty sometimes beautiful trappings of the 1400s.

The Medievalist is a good novel, featuring a well-researched plot line, and a main character who grows and learns as the novel progresses. Character development might sound like a given, but believe me, it is not. A couple reviews ago, I complained about the romanticized version of the past in The Secret. The Medievalist does not suffer from this fault; it does not shy away from the dangers that women faced in this time period. Women could gain status from birth, marriage, or being the mistress of a powerful man, but without men, for the most part, they lacked power and protection. Jayne is thrown from a world of academia, into a cut-throat world where she must decide what she is willing to do for that protection.

The chapters oscillate from being told from Jayne's perspective to King Richard's perspective-- something that I could have done without. The Jayne chapters were written well, but Richard's suffered from a stilted voice that never quite sounded right.

Parts of this novel dragged, and sometimes I couldn't convince myself to care about the plight of the

characters. However, parts of the novel flew by as I flipped the pages, eager to find out what happened next. Inconsistency, and the 'romance' kept this novel from being better. The author wrote lust better than she wrote love, which left me with two characters who did not have any reason to love each other-- there had been no time or space for a relationship to develop-- so lust was thrown in as a proxy.

I don't know much about the 1400s, but this novel felt well researched and believable-- which you kind of have to do if you make your main character a historian whose area of research was the 1400s. That being said, I might have enjoyed this novel more if I knew anything about King Richard III before going in. Even so, I was never overly confused about the political intrigue.

The Medievalist was a good--not great, but enjoyable, novel that fans of the time-slip genre should try.

InD'tale Magazine says

4.5/5.0

This book is wonderful! Superbly crafted!

Read full review in the 2018 February issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Julie says

The Medievalist by Anne-Marie Lacy is a time travel, historical fiction novel. Using a similar premise to the ever-popular Outlander, Ms. Lacy has added a few twists to make it her own.

When history student Jayne Lyons finds an artifact that transports her back 500 years to the time of King Richard III's reign. Smart young woman that she is, she quickly figures out how to blend into the brutal 15th century. She uses this time to try to solve the mystery of who really committed the murder of the Princes in the Tower, and along the way, she falls in love with Richard.

Author Lacy uses a dual point-of-view narration to tell her story. Additionally, she tells the tale in dual time periods. Her writing style flows, however, the story gets a bit bogged down in the introduction of an array of historical figures and secondary characters. While Ms. Lacy's passion for the period is obvious, given the length of her book, I think it would have served her work of fiction to limit the characters. It is hard to fully develop so many characters, especially in only 300 pages.

Avid time-travel fiction fans might take issue with the minute details like consequences of the time travel, the details of understanding era-specific lingo and different accents. History buffs will be pleased to know that Ms. Lacy sticks to known history instead of creating an alternative ending. I try not to get too bothered about things like this as it is a work of fiction based on the imagination of the author. I do take issue with unrealistic proclamations of love instead of characters admitting it is probably just a physical attraction (lust) that could become a real love relationship.

I enjoyed The Medievalist as a work of historical fiction even though I was not terribly invested in the

characters. I felt parts of the story were over worked and parts could have been explored further. Overall, it was an interesting read that will likely appeal to time-travel and historic fiction fans.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review which was done in conjunction with Nerd Girl Official: www.nerdgirlofficial.com.

Lona Manning says

I'm a devoted Ricardian (someone who admires Richard III and thinks he got a raw deal from history), so when I heard about a time-travel book that delves into his story, I knew I wanted to read it.

Time travel novel-writers have to convince their readers of the plausibility of time travel (that is, if you can swallow the camel of time travel, will you stumble over a gnat -- "how come the heroine can understand what people say? Don't they wonder about her accent, the fillings in her teeth, or the fact that she doesn't know how to say a pater noster?")

Then there are the consequences of time travel -- what if the heroine succeeds in saving Richard III's life? There would be no Tudor dynasty, no Henry VIII, no Elizabeth I, no Stuart dynasty, and so on. This suspense is one of the driving factors of the plot in *The Medievalist*. The author also makes good use of the tension between the heroine's love and concern for Richard and her desire to get safely back to modern times.

In addition to these challenges, author Anne-Marie Lacy is working within the confines of well-known history. She has, thankfully, not altered the main characters of the story, or the historical record. She has worked within these limitations to provide her version of answers to the great mysteries of the Richard III story. [What follows are not spoilers, but history]

Number one of course is, did Richard III kill his nephews to clear his path to the throne? Why did Buckingham rebel against the King? Why did Queen Elizabeth Woodville allow her daughters to come to Richard's court if she thought he had murdered her sons? What did Princess Elizabeth, who eventually was married to Henry VII, really think about everything that happened to her family?

Anne-Marie Lacy has provided explanations for all of these questions.

I think prior knowledge of the Richard III story would greatly enhance enjoyment of this book; I enjoyed the author's depiction of the minor (real) characters such as Tyrell, Catesby, Lovell, Queen Anne. Otherwise, only the bare bones of the story are presented. I think the story would be even better if it were longer, if more detail were included--perhaps not Diana Gabaldon-like levels of detail, where it takes 20 pages to change a diaper--but some more vignettes of medieval life, and more about Richard III's administrative abilities, and his desire to be a good monarch, and the consequences to England if he had allowed his sister-in-law and her grasping relatives to rule England through the boy-king Edward.

There is little explication of the dilemmas that Richard faced, apart from the quandary of what to do about his nephews.

This is an England that has suffered through a protracted civil war, where allegiances can and do change, where superstition rules and where women are largely powerless. It makes sense that Jayne, the heroine is rescued by a priest because the Church was something of a civilizing force. Otherwise, she might not have survived her first day in medieval England.

The device of changing POV in alternating chapters between Richard III and the heroine Jayne was disconcerting at first, but I realized that it was necessary for the unfolding of the plot. Being a Ricardian, I liked the heroine and sympathized with her motivations. Richard III was also sympathetic, thoughtful and likeable.

I thought there was a good balance of narrative and dialogue, especially considering there was so much the author had to explain on behalf of readers who don't already know the story.

An enjoyable read for people who like medieval history, romance and time travel, and especially people who know and appreciate the amazing story of Richard III and the Wars of the Roses.

Nicki Markus says

Richard III is a figure who has long interested me. While I love the Shakespeare plays (in which Richard gets some great lines) I have never committed to the black legend those works portray. Non-fiction texts present a different picture of Richard, and I've always believed that the truth is somewhere in the grey area between the two schools of thought. As such, the premise of this book appealed to me as soon as I saw it listed on NetGalley. Overall, I found The Medievalist to be an enjoyable and page-turning tale. How the time travel works is never explained, but that's probably better than getting caught in a mess of trying to account for it. Jayne was an interesting character, and I enjoyed Lacy's well-rounded portrayal of Richard. Her explanation regarding the missing princes is also satisfying. One thing that almost ruined the story for me, though, was the appearance of one of my pet peeves: I could care less. I never understand how this gets past editors, even in the US where it seems to be a common mistake. I find it so jarring that it pulled me completely out of the story and it took me several pages to stop thinking about it and return to the characters. That aside, this was a fun and gripping read that should appeal to historical fiction lovers.

I received this book as a free eBook ARC via NetGalley.

LibraryCin says

Jayne is a historian and a descendant of King Richard III of England – the man who may have had his two nephews (Edward IV's sons) murdered so Richard himself could take the crown. Jayne doesn't believe this is the case. When Richard's grave is being dug up, Jayne is a volunteer on site. At the end of the day, when she tries to help by covering up the bones, she grabs on to an artifact... and suddenly wakes up in the Middle Ages amidst tents. Jayne thinks this might be the eve of Richard's death!

I quite enjoyed this! Obviously implausible, but even taking the time travel element out of it, I don't believe what the author proposes is very likely. Have to admit, wasn't crazy about Jayne and Richard's relationship (ewww – he's your ancestor!) I still enjoyed the story, though. Jayne got to spend plenty of time in the late 15th century with Richard and with Bess, Edward IV's eldest daughter. The book was mostly from Jayne's point of view, but occasionally, we switched to Richard's; not surprisingly, I found Jayne's (a woman's) POV more interesting.

Victorique Crawford says

I will say that this was surprising, despite it being a time travel tale but set out to tell the tale of one of Britain's most perplexing mystery that has raged for five hundred years.

Many will say that he killed his nephews and recently many will disagree. Well, I won't take a stand here but it does fascinate me how such a mystery still is such a huge mystery today, and that we are nowhere closer. Although this book gives a slightly fictional but plausible ending for the Princes in the Tower, and a slightly more sympathetic light to King Richard III.

Although Jayne was originally really okay, I never found her to really stand out but she really had much connection with me and was a suitable narrator for this extremely perplexing mystery and although a little biased. But this is fiction, so, I can't say that she was wrong and there is still no hard evidence that she was right.

But the tale is in the 15th century, and that the narrators being from different times does set it out. Jayne is still rather modern, while Richard takes a older style which is what I will expect of him since he is a medieval figure and here is where I feel that the time does set them apart.

As for the plot, it is how history unfolds but the ending is a nice twist and final end to this. I do like that closure was found in the modern world, and Jayne was right. And that this is fiction although she can never say that he did it and neither can anyone say that he did not, the princes merely dissapeared there was no bodies of them, no definite evidence that they were certainly dead by the hand of his uncle.

But this is simply a take on the whole mystery, deviating from the usual. However this will be prove to be interested and even entertaining sometimes heartwarming sometimes rather clever. But I guess I'll just leave it as it is.

Leah says

I won this book as part of a goodreads giveaway.

3.5 Stars.

This book was entertaining. It is a romantic time-travel novel, so if you are bothered by historical inaccuracies, or need to have the science behind the time travel explained, then you probably won't like this book. But if you can move past those things, you'll probably enjoy it.

This is the story of Jayne, an American who is working on an archeological dig in England where the remains of Richard III are found. Jayne touches an artifact in the actual grave and is transported back to Midieval England. She lands right in the middle of the camp of the King's army. No one questions her clothing, her speech, or her sudden appearance...like I said, just believe. Now, Jayne knows her history, and knows what's supposed to happen, and she sets out to change it because she falls in love with Richard. She also doesn't believe that Richard killed his nephews and she sets out to prove it. We also learn that her family claims to be decended from Richard III, which makes it a little weird when they become lovers.

If you enjoy this time in English history, and you like romance, this is a good book. This is not, however, like Outlander. I would read more by the author.
