

MY LORD JOHN PDF, EPUB, EBOOK



Georgette Heyer | 400 pages | 23 Jan 2006 | Cornerstone | 9780099476429 | English | London, United Kingdom

My Lord John by Georgette Heyer: A Review | Jane Austen's World

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My Lord John Georgette Heyer. Cousin Kate Georgette Heyer. The Quiet Gentleman Georgette Heyer. False Colours Georgette Heyer.

A Civil Contract Georgette Heyer. Powder And Patch Georgette Heyer. The Unknown Ajax Georgette Heyer. The Corinthian Georgette Heyer. The Foundling Georgette Heyer. Frederica Georgette Heyer. Sylvester Georgette Heyer. Before Bridgerton: how Georgette Heyer re-invented Regency. What to read if you're loving Bridgerton. A new stepbrother—and brother-in-arms—proves to be an acquaintance from the London shadow-world of mollies, the homosexuals whose nature is a capital crime. His mother is [...]. Follow Lord John Grey as he defends his country, ferrets out spies, and unravels a haunting family mystery in this ebook collection of three previously published novels and one collection of novellas. But his efforts to avoid a scandal are interrupted when the Crown appoints him to investigate the brutal murder of a comrade-in-arms. Obligated to pursue two inquiries at once, Major Grey finds himself ensnared in a web of betrayal that touches every stratum of English society — and threatens all he holds dear.

Note that autographed and personalized copies signed by Diana are available in both hardback or trade paperback from The Poisoned Pen bookstore. His [...]. As described in my Lord John series page, some stories and novellas appear in multi-author anthologies and other collections. Click on the excerpts below for more information on each of the novellas featuring Lord John Grey. The second fascination is Lord John himself. English German Diana Gabaldon. Maxim Jakubowski. Martin and Gardner Dozois. Released on November 29, Martin and Gardner Dozois, released in October, Below are excerpts from web pages for each of the Lord John novels and stories:

The Lord John Series 4-Book Bundle Follow Lord John Grey as he defends his country, ferrets out spies, and unravels a haunting family mystery in this ebook collection of three previously published novels and one collection of novellas. Lord John Novellas As described in my Lord John series page, some stories and novellas appear in multi-author anthologies and other collections. Series Cover Gallery.

Georgette Heyer

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Cousin Kate Georgette Heyer. The Quiet Gentleman Georgette Heyer. False Colours Georgette Heyer. So I did that. Well, at this point, I left for another book-tour, in the UK, and stopped in New York on the way, to have lunch with my two literary agents. Publishers were thrilled. Can she do that again? The books and novellas do stand alone, and can be read separately in any order. If you do want to read them in strict order, though, here it is:

Read More. Which is to say, I wrote this book under the delusion that it was a short story well, hey, people have different standards. It begins when Lord John sees something shocking in his London club—and it takes a lot to shock Lord John, given his own background and experiences. If his private life is ever discovered, everything he cares about will be destroyed, and very likely, so will he. Set during the Seven Years War, Lord John Grey pursues a deadly family secret and a clandestine love affair against an eighteenth-century background of politics, treason, and battle. Grey has other conflicts to deal with. A new stepbrother—and brother-in-arms—proves to be an acquaintance from the London shadow-world of mollies, the homosexuals whose nature is a capital crime.

His mother is [...]. Follow Lord John Grey as he defends his country, ferrets out spies, and unravels a haunting family mystery in this ebook collection of three previously published novels and one collection of novellas. But his efforts to avoid a scandal are interrupted when the Crown appoints him to investigate the brutal murder of a comrade-in-arms. Obligated to pursue two inquiries at once, Major Grey finds himself ensnared in a web of betrayal that touches every stratum of English society — and threatens all he holds dear. Note that autographed and personalized copies signed by Diana are available in both hardback or trade paperback from The Poisoned Pen bookstore.

His [...].

My Lord John - Wikipedia

Barbican, postern, herber. This time I had the forethought to look in the back of the book and found the glossary and a reading guide! Heyer captures the dialogues between the lords with seemingly accurate phrases for Medieval times hence the need for the glossary and jumps right into her settings without much of a preamble. The story continues with the lordings of Henry of Bolingbroke later Henry IV and the small details of their comings and goings as they learn through gossip and messengers the goings-on of their King. Cousin Richard and the political upheaval the King creates which drastically effects the children. These lordings of Henry of Bolingbroke are number four boys and two girls, but the most important are Harry and John and given the most attention to in Part I. Harry who later becomes King Henry V after his own father is king, is taken under the wing of Richard II or taken hostage, depends on how you look at it, and John is the My Lord John as referred to in the title.

I am really struggling to not turn this into a history lesson! Major events occur around the family such as the headstrong uncle to the King Richard, Thomas Woodstock is murdered after being sent into exile, more plots and arrests and soon after the children's father, Henry of Bolingbroke is also sent away. Hence, uprisings among the families and the start of the Wars of The Roses soon after that although not reaching that part in the

book. I soon found that I was becoming engrossed with the story once it started to feel like Heyer was staying in one place with the characters at this point, but then she lost me again as we reach the 's when John becomes a Lord Warden in the North. Heyer attempts to recreate the relationship of the boys with their father King Henry, but the grasp is tenuous at best.

John's elder brother Harry is sent to deal with the Welsh and Owen Glendower. Their brother Thomas goes to Ireland. The two sisters Philippa and Bess are married off and scarcely mentioned again except when the one dies which causes heartache for her father the King. Ongoing rivalries plague Lord John, the relationships with the nobles and the King are the focus, and the outcome of traitors and heretics are dispersed throughout. The problems with the new Pope are mentioned and the politics with their neighboring countries are also discussed, always in the glazed overview of minute details over and over. The relationship between Henry and Harry, father and son, is also a running theme throughout the book, as the one is destined to succeed the other. The rivalries of the many families are a confusing mess throughout the book, with seemingly every family name featured such as Beauforts, Nevilles, Hastings, Beauchamps, Huntingdon, Kent, Despenser..

Heyer fans like me who have only read her romance and mystery novels are in for an about face, as this is truly pure historical in nature and not with the usual comedic settings or romantic rendezvous nor the tongue-in-cheek of slapstick comedy romps that Heyer is best known for. At first look I believed I could only recommend this work to those who are very familiar with the background of this turbulent era, and for those who would like a closer look at John and the circumstances of his upbringing and his relationship with his family. But the fact that there was no sense of satisfaction from this book, I now hesitate to recommend this at all. I cannot truly imagine there being any new insights here that would be better be accomplished through reading a less time consuming and more engaging book. I wanted to really, really like this novel, but this time I have to say that as both a Heyer fan, and Medieval era fan, I obviously did not enjoy this.

It started to become a chore for me but I was pulled through only by Heyer's interpreting of the dialogues between the subjects which were interesting if they were not interrupted by Heyer's backtracking through explanatory history. Through the conversations of the nobles is when Heyer's wit shone through, unfortunately there was just not enough of this to make this tome worthwhile to me. It is said that Heyer researched meticulously for this book, which was published after her death, and she originally had intended to publish three books. Perhaps if more drama was inserted within which would merit it a historical fiction work, and indeed separating out and dramatizing the major events throughout the three books, this endeavor would have succeeded.

But instead, a billion details about many characters of the time are squashed into pages that lack the typical Heyer flair. The wording that Heyer uses to detail the story does not promote its readability, it actually hindered any progress that could have been made. It also had the feeling of one step forward, two steps back with the myriad of recollections of events amidst the current storyline. The wording was dull, dry and emotionless and read more like a text book rather than the intended novel.

There is zero romance, and I am very confused as to why on the Amazon website the editorial review is "rapturously romantic". Unless the use of 'romantic' the reviewer meant antiquated. Not a single romance brewing unless of course the mere mention of a death of one wife and the marrying of another or the mentioning of having an affair is what is called romantic! The Amazon tags also bring up Romance and Regency in several forms and there is none of that in this work.

The cover for this book, although pretty, has nothing to do with this book either. I would put a warrior's shield on it in place of the woman or even a man to represent John. View all 3 comments. I got through this book with serious skimming. There were just too many names and relationships to follow. But, it was just too much. However, I will remember this title and "do the project" in the winter when I have more time and boredom to follow and trace it all out. Believe me, the detail about the characters is intense: John of Gaunt Heyer used all of his differen Wow And the historic events can be set to memory with the detail. But, you will need time and patience. I cannot imagine the research that went into this book. With all of that said, I do have a better sense of who Richard III was, and how the events fit into history. Lacked a central plot It describes each of their personalities, their strengths and their weaknesses. It never did. It was hard for me to follow the characters because so many had the same name.

The use of archaic words, was so numerous that I found it h Lacked a central plot The use of archaic words, was so numerous that I found it hard to remember what the intent of the information in a paragraph while looking up words in the glossary. But this was explained as an unfinished manuscript. As such, I found it not so much as an enjoyable story as a fascinating way to be introduced to a family that was in the Plantagenet line of English royalty. May 15, Kathy rated it it was amazing Shelves: historical-fiction. Left unfinished at her death, Georgette Heyer's husband and son chose to published it as it is: a meticulously researched historical account of the rise of the House of Lancaster, the Plantagenets. It focuses on John, whose brother eventually became Henry V. John outlived him, and was, apparently, a much better politician. Beginning in their childhood, Heyer brings the brothers to life as they grow up in wealth and privilege, see their father crowned King of England, and take on heavy responsibilities Left unfinished at her death, Georgette Heyer's husband and son chose to published it as it is: a meticulously researched historical account of the rise of the House of Lancaster, the Plantagenets.

Beginning in their childhood, Heyer brings the brothers to life as they grow up in wealth and privilege, see their father crowned King of England, and take on heavy responsibilities as mere teenagers. Not an enviable life as depicted, but they won the respect of their people if not of their enemies. Jun 14, Hazel McHaffie rated it liked it. I've been a fan of Georgette Heyer since my teens and loved her Regency romances. But I recently discovered her favourite period was the Middle Ages so I was delighted to find her last novel dealing with that time in history. She tells the story of Henry Vth's brother John of Bedford. A colossal amount of research went into it and she has a cast of nearly 80 characters! But this one lacks the sparkle of her other writings and was hard work.

And she ran out of time to finish it too. Top marks for I've been a fan of Georgette Heyer since my teens and loved her Regency romances. Top marks for diligent preparation, not such high marks for appeal. Aug 23, Cher Staite rated it did not like it. Perhaps if I had a year to pick this book up and put it down a hundred times I could have appreciated it. As it was, living in sq ft and restricted to library COVID turn around times being doubled to allow for disinfecting materials, I simply didn't have the time nor the inclination to slog through a book that was desperate for an editor. Maybe some other time. Dec 16, Chris rated it it was amazing. I found this book absolutely incredible.

I didn't think it was slow or had too much detail; I thought it was quite a good and an interesting read. It's such a shame the book was left unfinished because it would have been a masterpiece had it been completed. Jul 24, Christy rated it it was amazing. The characters that needed to be developed fully were, and the ones that didn't need to be developed fully weren't. It's important to remember that some characters are needed for only one thing and are not meant to be fully rounded characters. A bit like a Hilary Mantell book - detailed and well developed characters so you get a feel for how they really lived and felt, not just the facts.

A pity she didn't get to finish it. Apr 11, Susan R. Intriguing Heyer died before finishing this book, but what she wrote was fascinating. She truly knew how to bring history to life. May 29, J. Marsh rated it really liked it. Strong, likable characters, and some to dislike as well. Jun 20, Reviews by Jeanene rated it it was amazing. Jul 16, Constance rated it it was amazing. My Lord John is one of the best books I've ever read! Mar 17, Lisa rated it liked it Shelves: reviewed , plantagenet-fiction , historical-fictions , historical-fictions , to-reread. My Lord John is the unfinished first novel of an intended trilogy revolving around the figure of John, Duke of Bedford, son of Henry IV, brother of Henry V and uncle to Henry VI, who played a vital role in the brief English conquest of France in the fifteenth century. Author Georgette Heyer intended this to be her magnum opus, but she had to keep interrupting the writing progress to write her Regency romances to satisfy the demands of fans and the tax office.

She died without completing the first My Lord John is the unfinished first novel of an intended trilogy revolving around the figure of John, Duke of Bedford, son of Henry IV, brother of Henry V and uncle to Henry VI, who played a vital role in the brief English conquest of France in the fifteenth century. As such, it makes it hard to judge this book fairly. And, based on reviews, I expected a somewhat dull, dense read but found myself enjoying it a lot more than I thought I would. The text is very dense with historical detail, names, titles and medieval language. There are aids to clear up any confusion — a family tree, a glossary and a list of characters sorted by family — but I found them lacking. The character lists do not include titles and nicknames, so it is easy to get lost in the vast array. A lot of the history is communicated as though written in precis, and sometimes I just skimmed over it because it was so very dense and seemed to offer little to the narrative.

In some ways, it was frustrating because I thought some of those moments could have been unpacked. For example, we get very little of the Battle of Shrewsbury in — which is fine, as John was not physically involved in it, but given that Heyer characterises him as liking his eldest brother Harry the future Henry V best and being concerned about him, his reaction to his brother having an arrowhead lodged in his skull felt strangely lacking. The tension and conflict between Harry and their father, Henry IV, for instance is really interesting and what we do get to see of it is gold, but we rarely get to see it. I particularly liked the way she characterised Harry, Thomas and John, and their relationships with each other — I just wished I saw more of it.

However, that kind of characterisation — they were always bad, even when they were a toddler — is just something that gives me no joy. It was left unfinished and published as is. There is no knowing how or if Heyer would have revised what she had completed, or if what was published really reflected how she saw the novel. With this in mind, it strikes me as unfair to be overly harsh about My Lord John. For me, personally, I enjoy parts of it and I find other parts less enjoyable. Jul 10, Karen rated it really liked it Shelves: georgette-heyer , books-i-own , covers-i-love , read-more-than-once , medieval-historical-fiction.

Georgette Heyer sadly died before this novel was completed and what remains is less than half finished. We do not see the death of King Henry IV , or Georgette Heyer sadly died before this novel was completed and what remains is less than half finished. Joan of Arc does not make an appearance and we do not meet either of the women whom John married. His future career up until his death in is briefly detailed in an epilogue. What My Lord John is, however, is an interesting depiction of growing up in a royal environment in the Middle Ages. Come, Westmoreland. We have work to do. By God, you have deceived me, Lancaster. Before, I loved you as a brother; now, I respect you as my soulmate. Test your knowledge Take the Act 5, scenes iii-v Quick Quiz. Popular pages: Henry IV, Part 1.

Take a Study Break. Original Text. Modern Text. Lord John of Lancaster, go you with him. KING I will do so. View all newsletter. Brought to you by Penguin. Six holiday guests find themselves the suspects of a murder enquiry when the old Scrooge, Nathaniel Herriad, who owns the substantial estate, is found stabbed in the back. For Inspector Hemingway of Scotland Yard, 'tis the season to find whodunit. Bridgerton may have been based on a bestselling series, but the world of corsets and courting was invented decades before by Georgette Heyer. Here's how she gained a cult following. Here are some books to extend the London season long after the series finale. Author of over fifty books, Georgette Heyer is the best-known and best-loved of all historical novelists, who made the Regency period her own. Her first novel, The Black Moth, published in , was written at the age of seventeen to amuse her convalescent brother; her last was My Lord John.

Although most famous for her historical novels, she also wrote eleven detective stories. Georgette Heyer died in at the age of seventy-one. For more on our cookies and changing your settings click here. Strictly Necessary cookies enable core functionality such as security, network management, and accessibility. You may disable these by changing your browser settings, but this may affect how the website functions. See More. Analytics cookies help us to improve our website by collecting and reporting information on how you use it.

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Puffin Ladybird. Authors A-Z.

No Fear Shakespeare: Henry IV, Part 1: Act 5 Scene 4 | SparkNotes

My Lord John was Heyer's last novel, and is actually unfinished, with the manuscript ending right in the middle of a sentence. It covers his life from

childhood through to , when he was in his early twenties. Heyer did an enormous amount of research to write this book, and this becomes very obvious through *My Lord John* was Heyer's last novel, and is actually unfinished, with the manuscript ending right in the middle of a sentence. Heyer did an enormous amount of research to write this book, and this becomes very obvious throughout the story. In addition to discussing the life of one man, we learn about the entire world during that time period, from details of the lives of the princes, to the struggles on the world stage. I found this book to be incredibly difficult to read. For fans of Heyer's light romances, which are also excellent historical fiction, this book might be a bit daunting. It is very different from the others I've read by her.

What made it most frustrating for me was the fact that I could not for the life of me keep all the names and titles straight, even with the help of the cast of characters at the front of the book and the family tree in the back. The problem comes from Heyer's use of not only the character's given names, but also their titles, which seem to be constantly changing, and even their nicknames, if the characters have them. Most historical fiction authors that I have read try to keep things a little bit more in order for their readers, as though they understand that this can be confusing. Heyer also uses language from the time, and she helpfully includes a glossary, so that her readers will not be further mystified about what is going on.

Still, this use of language tended to add to my difficulty with the book. Overall, the historical detail is incredible, and the reader can learn a tremendous amount about this time period from the book. It would have been good to read the entire thing, no matter how difficult I found it. However, I hesitate to recommend this one, simply because the constant name switching and use of language were for me very distracting. It was also quite slow to read. Heyer has tried writing how people spoke at the time.

Heyer has tried writing how people spoke at the fifteenth century and it slows down the reading. There were many times I had to read the sentence a few times to understand it. I liked how John was portrayed and the scenes that focused on him but at times I felt like I was having a history lesson instead of reading historical fiction. Heyer died before the trilogy was finished, but did the book have to end in mid-sentence?! Even if the manuscript breaks off like that. What were the editors thinking! View all 5 comments. Mar 01, Felicity rated it liked it. Did the lordlings swiggle their jive cruck forward with algers? Was it slithy and did the wabe gyre and gymbal? Yes, this is the book where Georgette Heyer basically channels the 12th century edition of *Urban Dictionary* and you the reader get to puzzle it out! Also, there is genealogy. Oh my GAWD is there ever genealogy and it's confusing as hell. Which is all a way of saying that this is a really far cry from Heyer's best book but, let's face it, her worst book is still so much better *Forsooth!*

Which is all a way of saying that this is a really far cry from Heyer's best book but, let's face it, her worst book is still so much better than almost anyone else's best book that it's amazing. Even if it did make me wish I had a handy page college level text on medieval British monarchs as a reference and infuriate me to the nth degree with the kickin' medieval slang. But, I'll stop being mumpish for I sickerly am still asotted with Mrs. I somewhat enjoyed this book about John, Duke of Bedford and younger brother of the man who would become Henry V, especially in the beginning, but found the story dragging toward the end. I particularly enjoyed the interactions of the young John with his grandfather, John of Gaunt. This added another dimension to the man who was the hero of the classic *Katherine* by Anya Seton.

This book was Heyer's last and she died before completing it. In fact, the manuscript leaves off mid-sentence and the estate I somewhat enjoyed this book about John, Duke of Bedford and younger brother of the man who would become Henry V, especially in the beginning, but found the story dragging toward the end. In fact, the manuscript leaves off mid-sentence and the estate and editors apparently decided to publish the manuscript as Heyer left it. The story had really great potential and if Heyer had had the opportunity to edit and revise it, I believe it would have been made much tighter and not drag so much in the later half.

In addition, I read this book on a Kindle. Heyer used many archaic medieval words that were not to be found in the Kindle's built-in dictionary. While the book included a glossary in the rear, along with a family tree, neither of these features were easily accessible or readable on the Kindle, requiring the reader to frequently guess at word meanings from the context clues. Heyer allowed herself to become bogged down in detail, and while the period is a fascinating one, some of these minute details did little to move the plot along. While I did like the book, I think only fellow die-hard medieval history or Plantagenet Dynasty fans would truly appreciate it.

Really 3. I knew going into this book that it was an unfinished manuscript but was disappointed to find it was barely half finished. It's obvious that Heyer intended to chronicle his entire life and this goes only from babyhood to his early twenties which is about half his life as he died at 46 and certainly doesn't include the most interesting bits. The Really 3. The other thing I didn't expect was for the book to finish mid-sentence. Having said all that, it is hardly the author's fault that she died, but I would've expected the editors and her estate to have handled things differently because while the manuscript was more than a fragment, it was also much less than a completed novel. Yes we know what happens, history tells us as does the Historical Note at the end of the book, but it just felt so incomplete that it left me rather dissatisfied.

Although Heyer's straight Historical novels are dryer and less humorous than her much loved Regencies, the Heyer magic was still in evidence and I really did enjoy reading this book what there is of it and would've loved to have settled down to a nice long meaty read which alas is not what it delivered. View all 8 comments. Heyer brings the medieval world to life, creating a panoramic view of a royal family's intricacies, intrigues and sibling rivalries, along with the everyday lives of the servants, clerics, and vassals in their charge.

It is quite true regarding the details that Heyer retells, and when preparing my own review of the book I had specifically come up with the word "panoramic" to describe this, and afterwards realized that the description was not unique to me. But the word fits splendidly due to the nature of the book. *My Lord John* is immediately plagued by a quagmire of names I have read in medieval fiction and non-fiction before but this one starts off with so many names including nurses, wives etc. When you open a novel that begins with pages of family tables and genealogical references, you know you'll need to get your thinking cap on. Heyer opens this novel up with when Richard II is king, and is known as Cousin Richard to the lordlings the children that we are immediately introduced to.

Right off the bat I came across some interesting words that I had to look up. Barbican, postern, herber. This time I had the forethought to look in the back of the book and found the glossary and a reading guide! Heyer captures the dialogues between the lords with seemingly accurate phrases

for Medieval times hence the need for the glossary and jumps right into her settings without much of a preamble.

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Hence, uprisings among the families and the start of the Wars of The Roses soon after that although not reaching that part in the book. I soon found that I was becoming engrossed with the story once it started to feel like Heyer was staying in one place with the characters at this point, but then she lost me again as we reach the 's' when John becomes a Lord Warden in the North. Heyer attempts to recreate the relationship of the boys with their father King Henry, but the grasp is tenuous at best.

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Through the conversations of the nobles is when Heyer's wit shone through, unfortunately there was just not enough of this to make this tome worthwhile to me. It is said that Heyer researched meticulously for this book, which was published after her death, and she originally had intended to publish three books. Perhaps if more drama was inserted within which would merit it a historical fiction work, and indeed separating out and dramatizing the major events throughout the three books, this endeavor would have succeeded. But instead, a billion details about many characters of the time are squashed into pages that lack the typical Heyer flair. The wording that Heyer uses to detail the story does not promote its readability, it actually hindered any progress that could have been made.

It also had the feeling of one step forward, two steps back with the myriad of recollections of events amidst the current storyline. The wording was dull, dry and emotionless and read more like a text book rather than the intended novel. There is zero romance, and I am very confused as to why on the Amazon website the editorial review is "rapturously romantic". Unless the use of 'romantic' the reviewer meant antiquated. Not a single romance brewing unless of course the mere mention of a death of one wife and the marrying of another or the mentioning of having an affair is what is called romantic! The Amazon tags also bring up Romance and Regency in several forms and there is none of that in this work. The cover for this book, although pretty, has nothing to do with this book either. I would put a warrior's shield on it in place of the woman or even a man to represent John. View all 3 comments.

I got through this book with serious skimming. There were just too many names and relationships to follow. But, it was just too much. However, I will remember this title and "do the project" in the winter when I have more time and boredom to follow and trace it all out. Believe me, the detail about the characters is intense: John of Gaunt Heyer used all of his differen Wow And the historic events can be set to memory with the detail. But, you will need time and patience. I cannot imagine the research that went into this book. With all of that said, I do have a better sense of who Richard III was, and how the events fit into history. Lacked a central plot It describes each of their personalities, their strengths and their weaknesses. It never did. It was hard for me to follow the characters because so many had the same name.

The use of archaic words, was so numerous that I found it h Lacked a central plot The use of archaic words, was so numerous that I found it hard to remember what the intent of the information in a paragraph while looking up words in the glossary. But this was explained as an unfinished manuscript. As such, I found it not so much as an enjoyable story as a fascinating way to be introduced to a family that was in the Plantagenet line of English royalty. May 15, Kathy rated it it was amazing Shelves: historical-fiction. Left unfinished at her death, Georgette Heyer's husband and son chose to published it as it is: a meticulously researched historical account of the rise of the House of Lancaster, the Plantagenets. It focuses on John, whose brother eventually became Henry V.

John outlived him, and was, apparently, a much better politician. Beginning in their childhood, Heyer brings the brothers to life as they grow up in wealth and privilege, see their father crowned King of England, and take on heavy responsibil Left unfinished at her death, Georgette Heyer's husband and son chose to published it as it is: a meticulously researched historical account of the rise of the House of Lancaster, the Plantagenets.

Beginning in their childhood, Heyer brings the brothers to life as they grow up in wealth and privilege, see their father crowned King of England, and take on heavy responsibilities as mere teenagers. Not an enviable life as depicted, but they won the respect of their people if not of their enemies. Jun 14, Hazel McHaffie rated it liked it. I've been a fan of Georgette Heyer since my teens and loved her Regency romances. But I recently discovered her favourite period was the Middle Ages so I was delighted to find her last novel dealing with that time in history. She tells the story of Henry Vth's brother John of Bedford. A colossal amount of research went into it and she has a cast of nearly 80 characters! But this one lacks the sparkle of her other writings and was hard work. And she ran out of time to finish it too. Top marks for I've been a fan of Georgette Heyer since my teens and loved her Regency romances. Top marks for diligent preparation, not such high marks for appeal. Aug 23, Cher Staite rated it did not like it.

Perhaps if I had a year to pick this book up and put it down a hundred times I could have appreciated it. As it was, living in sq ft and restricted to library COVID turn around times being doubled to allow for disinfecting materials, I simply didn't have the time nor the inclination to slog through a book that was desperate for an editor. Maybe some other time. Dec 16, Chris rated it it was amazing. I found this book absolutely incredible. I didn't think it was slow or had too much detail; I thought it was quite a good and an interesting read. It's such a shame the book was left unfinished because it would have been a masterpiece had it been completed. Jul 24, Christy rated it it was amazing. The characters that needed to be developed fully were, and the ones that didn't need to be developed fully weren't.

It's important to remember that some characters are needed for only one thing and are not meant to be fully rounded characters. A bit like a Hilary Mantell book - detailed and well developed characters so you get a feel for how they really lived and felt, not just the facts. A pity she didn't get to finish it. Apr 11, Susan R. Intriguing Heyer died before finishing this book, but what she wrote was fascinating. She truly knew how to bring history to life. May 29, J. Marsh rated it really liked it. Strong, likable characters, and some to dislike as well. Jun 20, Reviews by Jeanene rated it it was amazing. Jul 16, Constance rated it it was amazing. My Lord John is one of the best books I've ever read!

Mar 17, Lisa rated it liked it Shelves: reviewed , plantagenet-fiction , historical-fictions , historical-fictions , to-reread. My Lord John is the unfinished first novel of an intended trilogy revolving around the figure of John, Duke of Bedford, son of Henry IV, brother of Henry V and uncle to Henry VI, who played a vital role in the brief English conquest of France in the fifteenth century. Author Georgette Heyer intended this to be her magnum opus, but she had to keep interrupting the writing progress to write her Regency romances to satisfy the demands of fans and the tax office. She died without completing the first. My Lord John is the unfinished first novel of an intended trilogy revolving around the figure of John, Duke of Bedford, son of Henry IV, brother of Henry V and uncle to Henry VI, who played a vital role in the brief English conquest of France in the fifteenth century.

As such, it makes it hard to judge this book fairly. And, based on reviews, I expected a somewhat dull, dense read but found myself enjoying it a lot more than I thought I would. The text is very dense with historical detail, names, titles and medieval language. There are aids to clear up any confusion — a family tree, a glossary and a list of characters sorted by family — but I found them lacking.

The character lists do not include titles and nicknames, so it is easy to get lost in the vast array. A lot of the history is communicated as though written in precis, and sometimes I just skimmed over it because it was so very dense and seemed to offer little to the narrative. In some ways, it was frustrating because I thought some of those moments could have been unpacked. For example, we get very little of the Battle of Shrewsbury in — which is fine, as John was not physically involved in it, but given that Heyer characterises him as liking his eldest brother Harry the future Henry V best and being concerned about him, his reaction to his brother having an arrowhead lodged in his skull felt strangely lacking.

The tension and conflict between Harry and their father, Henry IV, for instance is really interesting and what we do get to see of it is gold, but we rarely get to see it. I particularly liked the way she characterised Harry, Thomas and John, and their relationships with each other — I just wished I saw more of it. However, that kind of characterisation — they were always bad, even when they were a toddler — is just something that gives me no joy.

It was left unfinished and published as is. There is no knowing how or if Heyer would have revised what she had completed, or if what was published really reflected how she saw the novel. With this in mind, it strikes me as unfair to be overly harsh about My Lord John. For me, personally, I enjoy parts of it and I find other parts less enjoyable. Jul 10, Karen rated it really liked it Shelves: georgette-heyer , books-i-own , covers-i-love , read-more-than-once , medieval-historical-fiction. June 26, by Vic. You can purchase the book at this link. Heyer first began the writing and researching of My Lord John in , and when she died in , she had completed less than half of her planned narrative. The copious research she left behind was proof of a passionate interest in the era; it included index cards noting the important events for every calendar day from to My Lord John, however, shows a different and perhaps more complex side of Heyer.

The tale centers on four brothers: the future Henry V, his more dashing but less intelligent brother Thomas, the solid and reliable John, and Humphrey, the spoiled youngest. This is a technique Heyer uses again and again to bring the everyday details of medieval life to the fore: the reader is shown the perspective of minor characters, often servants, whose point-of-view broadens the medieval landscape while their observations help round out the characters of the main historical figures. We see Lord John, for example, through the eyes of a squire who wonders why a nobleman would stop to patronize a street stall like a commoner and the priest who follows in his retinue as Lord Confessor who worries much more about the worldly concerns of lodging and meals than does his charge.

Heyer takes every opportunity to revel in period dialogue glossary provided and even manages to write in cameo appearances by medieval celebrities such as Chaucer and Froissart. As Heyer paints her portrait of Lord John, he emerges as an unusual hero: moderate, conscientious, loyal, but happy to fill a secondary role. While Heyer may relish the flash of Lord Harry and the challenge of covering the events that inspired Shakespeare, who was rather less faithful to his sources , it is the slow-and-steady John whom she elevates to hero. My Lord John is in many ways a coming-of-age novel, and the story picks up pace about halfway through, when John travels to the Scottish Borderlands as Lord Warden, the representative of the throne in this rebellious and sometimes hostile region.

As he meets with the nobles, clergy, and common folk, John consistently shows that is he more than he appears:. Sheep-farming was the chief worldly business of the Cistercians, and . . . [t]hey talked of ewe-flocks, of whethers and hoggets; of the perils of the lambing season; of fells; of the advantages and the disadvantages of a fixed Staple; of the guile of the Lombard merchants, and the wiles of the brokers; of the circumstances which had led great families to lease their farms to tenants; and — this was a homethrust delivered by the Lord John — of the sand-blind policy that induced sheep-farmers to sell their wool for many years ahead to crafty Flemish and Italian merchants.

John shows himself similarly knowledgeable about falconry and coal-mining, among other pursuits. In passages like this, the reader sees in Lord John a love of the details and intricacies of daily life that is clearly shared by Heyer herself. While Harry has the fire and drives much of the action, it is John, the consummate planner and administrator, who earns the respect of author and readers. As it is, the dedication to historical accuracy and the fact that Lord John is not personally involved in much of the action in the first half of the book, make My Lord John a slower and drier read than most Heyer novels. It was certainly different in tone than her romances but that to me was part of its charm. The depth of detail really made that period come to life as I read it, and I appreciated that the context of the archaic words she used helped me pretty much figure out what they meant without having to use the glossary which I only discovered after I finished reading. . .haha!

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